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REAGAN MEETS WITH ROWNY, NITZE ON U.S. ARMS POLICY

LD221217 Moscow TASS in English 1203 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Washington January 22 TASS -- President Reagan has met at the White House Edward Rowny and Paul Nitze, the heads of the U.S. delegations to the Soviet-American talks on the limitation and reduction of strategic arms and on the limitation of nuclear weapons in Europe. The meeting was also attended by Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, the President's National Security Adviser William Clark, and Kenneth Adelman, the recently appointed director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Although the meeting was devised as an attempt to reassure the broad sections of the American and world public, denouncing the one-sided and unconstructive approach of Washington to arms control, the presidential statement released after it and the press conference given by the heads of the U.S. delegations demonstrated that the policy of the U.S. Government remained unflexible and aimed at achieving unilateral advantage.

For instance, Reagan's statement, declaring resolve to explore any possibility for working out fair agreements on reducing nuclear arsenals and lessening the danger of war, at the same time stresses anew that Washington continues to bank on its pseudo "zero option". The President stressed that the U.S. proposals at the talks are made in combination with the U.S. programmes for the modernisation of the Armed Forces, meaning a dramatic build-up of war preparations within the framework of a rearmament programme oriented to ensuring military superiority for Washington.

The White House meeting also showed that Washington stubbornly refuses to display a constructive approach to the problem and tries to tip the global and regional balance of forces and to push through by all means its notorious pseudo "zero option" to ensure advantage for the United States through detracting dramatically from the security of others.

The Soviet Union can by no means accept the "zero option," which would be tantamount to the drastic breakdown of parity in armaments which has evolved over many years.

Moscow TV Comment on Meeting

LD221612 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1245 GMT 22 Jan 83

[From the "International Review" program presented by political observer Vladimir Dunayev]

[Text] In the presence of his advisers President Reagan received at the White House General Edward Rowny and emissary Paul Nitze, who represent the American side in Geneva at the strategic arms talks and the talks on medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. The agencies report that in front of television cameras Ronald Reagan publicly wished them success at the talks. However, according to the same agencies, a few minutes later emissary Paul Nitze hinted at a meeting with journalists that unfortunately his instructions again prescribe that he insist on the notorious zero option.

Shortly after the [visit by the] emissaries a Pershing II medium-range missile -- one of the type to be deployed in the FRG, the type which the Pentagon is preparing to deploy there -- was launched from Cape Canaveral. Earlier there had been some failures with the Pershings, and now their testing is being pushed through.

It is unclear how the U.S. President's smiles and good wishes can be combined with the extraordinary haste to step up U.S. missiles in West Europe. How can it be that the smiles and good wishes do not reach Geneva and are not reflected in the American representatives' proposals and instructions? These smiles somehow remain behind, frozen on the television screens, to be seen in newspaper photographs, obviously in order to somehow calm and lull Americans and West Europeans who are disturbed at the course which events are taking.

In this connection I would like to mention the warning contained in the communique published today about Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko's visit to the GDR. The United States must desist from its tactics of prolonging the European strategic arms limitation talks and must show readiness by its deeds to seek a just agreement, complying with the principle of equality and equal security.

WEINBERGER STATEMENT ON SOVIET PROPOSALS VIEWED

LD231416 Moscow TASS in English 1400 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow January 23 TASS -- TASS News analyst Ivan Ablamov writes: U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger has again made a statement on an issue which, it would seem, falls rather within the terms of reference of the White House or Secretary of State Shultz. With a martinet's straightforwardness the Pentagon chief declared that all the latest Soviet proposals which, as is known, are based on the Soviet Union's readiness to retain in Europe only as many missiles as are kept by Britain and France -- and not a single missile above this total -- and to reduce the number of missiles, including most up-to-date ones, could not even be discussed at Geneva talks. In this connection he extolled again the so-called "zero option".

The impression is that somebody still entertains the illusion that the Soviet Union will ultimately agree to the "zero option". It should be emphasised once again that this is ruled out. The Soviet Union can by no means accept the "zero option" because this would mean that the parity in armaments, which has taken many years to shape, would be utterly wrecked. It is known that there is a disarray in the U.S. Administration itself in this issue.

In the meantime, the position of the Western European countries in the issue is quite definite. There the Soviet proposals were described as serious and testifying to the Soviet Union's flexibility and its desire to reach agreement on the basis of the principle of equality and equal security, which the USSR regards as the most fundamental one to be committed to and from which it cannot depart. Thus, in particular, Hans-Jochen Vogel, a member of the Presidium of the Social Democratic Party [SPD] of Germany who is SPD nominee for the post of West German chancellor, pointed out the constructive nature of the Soviet proposals and expressed the hope that the American side at the Geneva talks will not stick to its original position.

What is indicated by the summary of that obstructionist position by such a high-ranking Reagan government official as Weinberger?

Only that the United States would like to use the Geneva talks as a cover for U.S. plans at all cost to deploy in Western Europe Pershings and cruise missiles, the realisation of which threatens to turn the whole region into a nuclear powder keg that can blow up at any moment.

Since success at the Geneva talks would reduce the possibility of stationing these U.S. missiles to naught, the Pentagon is now making deliberate efforts towards the sabotage and disruption of these talks so that to have its hands untied to carry out NATO's so-called dual-track decision which provides for the deployment of American missiles. It is well known that the Reagan administration has always regarded and is regarding as binding for itself only that part of the decision, ignoring the opinion of its Western European allies.

Even today, the United States is feverishly forcing the building of launching sites in Western Europe for new American missiles as if proceeding in advance from the assumption that Washington will be able to torpedo the Geneva talks. According to trustworthy foreign press reports, a total of more than 70 such sites have already been built. Apparently it is in this connection that one should examine the latest statement of SPD Chairman Willy Brandt, who said in a conversation with a correspondent of the Norwegian Telegraph Bureau that after SPD candidate for the chancellorship Vogel's visits to Washington and Moscow, there have appeared elements which can form the basis for fruitful talks concerning the stationing of missiles in Europe. "But acute differences will emerge if the United States comes out in favour of siting new missiles in Europe before NATO appraises the results of the negotiations in Geneva," he said.

TRUD: U.S. DEFENSE DOCUMENT CONSIDERS FIRST STRIKE

LD231240 Moscow TASS in English 1113 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow January 23 TASS -- "This document specifically considers the phase of making the first nuclear strike at the USSR and the Warsaw Treaty countries involving the use of medium-range nuclear weapons on station in Western Europe," Vissarion Sisnev, a political news analyst of the newspaper TRUD writes in his daily today in a commment on a UPI dispatch about a secret report issued by the U.S. Defence Department and the U.S. National Security Council. "It also sets concrete tasks toward preparing for dealing a nuclear blow from space," he says further. "And what is to be done with the arms control talks between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R.? What is to be done with the anti-missile defence treaties that have already entered into force? The answer is given flatly: The talks, should they hamper the implementation of plans of gaining military superiority for the United States, will be frustrated and the treaties violated."

The author recalls that in his answers to questions by American columnist Joseph Kingsbury-Smith concerning nuclear weapons in Europe, Yuriy Andropov proposed different options of possible agreements. One option is to have no nuclear weapons at all there, neither medium range nor tactical ones, on the Soviet side and on the side of the NATO states. This would mean "absolute zero," so to speak, for both sides.

Alternatively, both sides could reduce their medium-range weapons (missiles, nuclear-capable planes) by more than two-thirds. In this case there would be no Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles confronting each other in Europe and the U.S.S.R. would retain only as many such missiles as Britain and France have. "But for some reason the NATO countries are in no hurry with an answer," the news analyst notes. "What has been heard so far has been only not too coherent discourse about what is described as a 'special national character' of the nuclear forces of Britain and France, which for an unknown reason makes them inaccessible to international agreements."

The author reminds the readers about another peace initiative of the socialist countries, that towards concluding a treaty on the mutual non-use of military force and the maintenance of relations of peace between the member-states of the Warsaw Treaty and the North Atlantic Treaty. "But the same standard phrase is given by Western capitals: 'The proposals are being studied.' The trouble is that, as experience shows, the proposals of the socialist countries may be 'studied' for a very long time -- not because they are faulty or impracticable, but precisely because the countries which have advanced them are socialist."

ADMIRAL REITERATES WARNING OF ARMS RACE RESPONSE

LD230220 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0020 GMT 23 Jan 83

["Washington's Global Pretensions" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow 23 Jan (TASS) -- Washington's present foreign policy course embodies the views of the most belligerent circles of U.S. monopolistic capital, the first deputy head of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, Admiral A. Sorokin, writes in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

All of the activities of the U.S. Administration are permeated through and through with anticommunism and anti-Sovietism. Opposing the policy of detente, it has set itself upon a policy of confrontation with the Soviet Union and the other states of the socialist community.

Taking as a starting point the relation of forces that has become established in the international arena and soberly taking into account the operation of the laws of social development and the lessons of history, we are convinced of the absolute hopelessness of U.S. attempts to weaken socialism and of the futility of its pretensions to world domination. But at the same time, the Soviet Admiral says, one cannot ignore the fact that, in their striving for hegemony, the American ruling circles are exploiting an enormous economic, scientific-technical and military potential and are following an exclusively adventuristic course in international affairs. In so doing they are banking mainly on a policy of "from position of strength" and use of the means of armed force.

Considering the use of armed force as quite acceptable and even necessary for implementation of its hegemonistic plans, the Reagan administration has from its first days in the White House taken the course of stepping up militaristic preparations and achieving military superiority. First and foremost, Washington has resolved to break the approximate parity in the field of strategic arms between the Soviet Union and United States.

The Communist Party and the Soviet Government, the article says, have already repeatedly warned that we will not permit anybody to break the military-strategic equilibrium which exists in the world. This warning is based on the realistic capabilities of developed socialism. The USSR will be forced to respond to the U.S. side's challenge with development of corresponding weapons systems: to the MX with its own similar missile; to the U.S. long-range cruise missile with its own long-range cruise missile, which is already being tested.

MOSCOW CITES DISARMAMENT SPOKESMAN AT GENEVA TALKS

LD220034 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1945 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Correspondent Vsevolod Shishkovskiy report from Geneva]

[Text] Delegations from 42 countries are continuing to arrive in Geneva to take part in the next meeting of the Disarmament Committee which opens here in the next few days. Meanwhile, various meetings, consultations and talks are taking place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on a wide range of problems, and particularly on ways of drawing up an international convention banning the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and destroying existing ones. I asked Viktor Levonovich Israelyan, the head of the Soviet delegation at the Disaramament Committee, to speak about these in more detail:

[Begin recording] The consultations now being held in Geneva under the chairmanship of Comrade Sukja, the envoy of the Polish People's Republic, are aimed at continuing the important work essentially started several years ago on the initiative of the socialist countries and directed toward concluding a convention banning chemical weapons.

Last year, at the second special session of the General Assembly on disarmament, the Soviet Union submitted an initiative proposal in the form of the draft basic propositions of a convention banning chemical weapons. That document won the widest possible support and became the basis for the talks now being held in Geneva. We hope that these consultations will be continued and that we will succeed in fulfilling one of the important tasks mentioned in the Political Declaration by the Warsaw Treaty member-states. [end recording]

PRAVDA URGES POSITIVE OUTCOME AT GENEVA TALKS

LD232321 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] The central daily PRAVDA says the Soviet Union is prepared for drastic measures to reduce military confrontation in Europe. The newspaper recalls the Soviet proposal to rid the European Continent of nuclear weapons, both medium-range and tactical. There is yet another alternative, to reduce the medium-range missiles of the Soviet Union and the NATO countries by more than three times, with the Soviet Union retaining just as many such missiles as Britain and France have.

But, PRAVDA notes, progress cannot be expected if only one side comes forward with initiatives and the other seeks to shun them. The ball is now in the court of the West, which should occupy a realistic stand and abandon attempts to bargain for one-sided advantages.

The next round of Soviet-American talks on limiting nuclear weapons in Europe opens on 27 January. Their positive outcome could break the vicious circles of building up these weapons on the continent. Otherwise, PRAVDA emphasizes, the Soviet Union and its allies will not remain indifferent to the deployment of a qualitatively new U.S. nuclear weapon designed for a first strike delivery.

PRAVDA: NEGOTIATIONS WAY TO DETENTE IN EUROPE

LD240804 Moscow TASS in English 0756 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] -- Moscow January 24 TASS -- The peace initiatives of the USSR and other countries of the socialist community, the newspaper PRAVDA stresses, are an evidence of their determination to do everything possible for the strengthening of security in Europe, for the positive development of inter-state relations in the continent, and for the improvement of the situation around the world.

"In order to really find a way out of the maze of international problems, those in Europe, in the first place," the newspaper points out, "it is essential to start curbing the race of armaments and gradually reducing them, which must lead to lower level of military confrontation with the preservation of the established approximate parity in the military field."

"A positive outcome of the Soviet-U.S. negotiations on limiting nuclear arms in Europe, another round of which opens on January 27," PRAVDA writes, "could finally break the vicious circle of the nuclear arms build-up in the continent. It is obvious that otherwise the Soviet Union and its allies will not be able to go past the deployment of qualitatively new U.S. first-strike nuclear-missile weapons in Western Europe".

"An important way to strengthen security in our continent," the article goes on, "is to reach agreement at the Vienna negotiations on the reduction of the armed forces and armaments in central Europe. The actual lack of progress at the negotiations cannot but give rise to legitimate concern. NATO countries obviously steer the line towards dragging the negotiations out towards using them as a screen for the build-up of their military potential, including that in the centre of Europe.

"How can one explain otherwise the fact that those states rejected the proposal, tabled by socialist countries as far back as in 1975, on freezing the numerical strength of the armed forces in the area for the period the negotiations last?"

"On the whole, the way to detente in Europe," PRAVDA sums up, "is to further the process started in Helsinki. It is not fortuitous that the military aspects of European security and the convocation of a conferene on confidence-building measures and on security and disarmament in Europe are in the centre of attention at the Madrid follow-up meeting of the European conference. The Soviet Union's preparedness to spread confidence-building measures to the entire European part of our country -- provided there is a corresponding expansion of the zone of confidence-building measures on the part of Western states too -- is a constructive step which clears the way for the convocation of such a conference".

TASS OBSERVER EXPLAINS SOVIET WEAPONS PROPOSALS

LD230710 Moscow in French to Europe 1830 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Commentary by TASS observer Leonid Ponomarev: "Only on the Basis of Equality and Equal Security"]

[Text] THE WASHINGTON POST recently published an interview with French Defense Minister Charles Hernu. He stated that France would pursue its nuclear weapons modernization program irrespective of the outcome in Geneva of the Soviet-American negotiations on medium-range nuclear missiles, and that it rejects the Soviet proposals to include France's independent nuclear forces in the framework for these negotiations.

Basically Mr Hernu has touched upon two important and independent problems: first France's intention to puruse its nuclear weapons modernization program; and second, the Soviet proposal to use the independent French nuclear forces as a basis for the Soviet-American negotiations at Geneva.

As for the minister's first statement, as reported by the newspaper, it appears that the French want it to be noticed. As far as the second statement is concerned, it must be made clear that the Soviet side has not tried -- nor is it trying -- to discuss French and British nuclear weapons at the Soviet-American talks. The Soviet Union does not propose limiting or reducing the nuclear forces of France or Great Britain. If the USSR and the United States come to an agreement in Geneva on the reduction of nuclear weapons in Europe, not a single provision of such an agreement would impose obligations on France or Great Britain. At the same time, the USSR cannot omit from the sum total of nuclear weapons those possessed by Great Britain and France, because these are not neutral countries, but allies of America in the Atlantic pact: They are nuclear powers whose missiles are capable of reaching Soviet territory. Although we are far from overestimating the power of the French and British weapons, they cannot be ignored in an analysis of the general balance between the two opposing blocs.

And here is another important aspect of the problem: The French and British nuclear weapons are referred to in the section of the Soviet proposals which deals with the willingness of the USSR to retain only as many medium-range nuclear missiles as the total of those possessed by France and Great Britain -- not one missile, not one aircraft, more or less. As Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has stressed, this means that the Soviet Union would reduce the [word indistinct] of its missiles [words indistinct]. That is the Soviet position and the gist of the proposals aimed at limiting and reducing nuclear weapons.

PORTUGALOV ON U.S.-NATO NUCLEAR STRATEGY

WA211405 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 3 (Signed to Press 11 Jan 83) pp 3,6

["On 'Uncoupling' and 'Strategic Schizophrenia'" by Nikolay Portugalov]

[Text] The policy makers in the NATO capitals decided to change their tactics after realizing that it is impossible to dispose of the new Soviet peace initiatives on the limitation and reduction of nuclear weapons in Europe as quickly as they had hoped, because the favourable response these proposals have stirred up among the West European public is much too far-reaching. Recently DER SPIEGEL, a Hamburg weekly, wrote: "The electorate might regard a simple 'no' in answer to the proposals of the Soviet Party leader as inadequate." This, naturally, holds true likewise for the voters in the other European NATO countries, whom the Americans intend "to cheer up" this year with their Pershing-2 and cruise missiles.

The diplomats in these countries are now beginning to express restrained approval of the Soviet proposals which, according to the diplomats, as a "step in the right direction" merit thorough study, but are still unacceptable for the West because "they do not take adequate account of the West's security". It is not easy to persuade the public that this is so; the absolute "missile zero" between the USA and the USSR in Europe -- a plan for equal levels of missiles, according to which the Soviet side would maintain only as many missiles as Great Britain and France -- is persuasive in its clarity and simplicity. It is the most adequate expression of the principle of equality and equal security as applied to nuclear arms in Europe.

After this, it is senseless to insist that the USSR aspires to "retain the advantage in medium-range missiles", because no one would believe that.

That's why the leaders of the European NATO countries in their attempts to influence public opinion, are now returning to certain "primary concepts" in NATO strategy, using them as some sort of a yardstick for the Soviet peace initiatives. This is a thankless task.

For example, Manfred Woerner, West German Minister of Defence, said recently that "the Soviet proposals are unacceptable in their present form, because they do not take into account the vitally important security interests of the FRG, which depends on U.S. nuclear guarantees". If the Soviet proposals were accepted, he went on to say, the United States would have no medium-range missiles in Europe, and West Germany would be left helpless before the threat of the remaining Russian missiles. As for the medium-range missiles of Great Britain and France, according to Woerner, they are "weapons for national defence" and would be used only if these countries were attacked. Since the English and the French cannot extend any nuclear guarantees to the FRG, it follows that the Russian proposals "do not go far enough".

Politicians in the other NATO countries are also reiterating the above-mentioned discourses by Woerner in various ways, and this merits an examination in greater detail. The statements pertaining to the British and French missiles are simply false: the British nuclear forces are directly under NATO command and Paris has recently proposed to Bonn that the nuclear strategy of the two countries be coordinated and intends to deploy its own nuclear weapons in the FRG. It is simply irresponsible to try and prove that the British and French missiles cannot be used by NATO.

However, Woerner and other like-minded politicians are putting the emphasis on the U.S. nuclear guarantees or, in NATO parlance, on the danger of "uncoupling" the FRG and all Western Europe from the U.S. "deterrent" -- the U.S. strategic forces. "Uncoupling" is a NATO neologism that came into fashion in the early 60s when the USSR developed, in the course of the arms race imposed on it, its own strategic weapons, capable of hitting targets in the United States. Since then, for a good 20 years the people of Western Europe have been anxiously wondering whether the Americans would be prepared "to sacrifice Chicago for Hamburg". The reliability of U.S. nuclear guarantees is under suspicion.

The leaders in Bonn think that the deployment of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in the FRG would raise the reliability of these guarantees, coupling Western Europe more firmly to the U.S. nuclear capability. Is that so? It is true, of course, that while trying to square this nuclear circle, some West European politicians, particularly former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, were at one time all for the deployment of U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe. But what came of all that? The Americans solved the problem of uncoupling just as they wanted, with plans to transfer their additional first-strike capability to Europe, thus gaining the opportunity to sacrifice Hamburg at any moment for the sake of Chicago's security!

Alexander Haig, who is now going in for futurology at the Hudson Institute, said in an interview that the West Europeans are suffering from "strategic schizophrenia" -- they are scared that the United States might not use its nuclear arms to protect Europe in case of a conflict, and even more scared that the United States might indeed use its nuclear weapons, destroying Europe in the process. There is some truth in this, but that is a specifically internal NATO problem! What relation does it have to the Soviet proposals on establishing in Europe a nuclear balance at the lowest possible level?

The Soviet side takes into account the fact that the European NATO countries regard the U.S. nuclear presence as a necessary element of their own security, and is prepared to agree to equal levels not only of missiles, but also of medium-range planes. This would leave a certain number of U.S. Air Force forward based systems "within the European NATO sphere".

The Americans by the way, do not intend leaving Europe at all. Dulles, in his day, used to say that America was protecting its own interests in Europe and would therefore preserve its military presence in the Old World.

Of course, Woerner and his colleagues in other NATO countries are free to declare that the Americans are more likely to sacrifice Chicago for Hamburg than the French are to sacrifice Paris. But to demand from the USSR, on these grounds, that it regard the British and French missiles targeted against it as innocent firecrackers — that, pardon me is a very serious form of "strategic schizophrenia", at best.

The Soviet proposals, therefore, are not at all aimed at uncoupling Western Europe from the U.S. nuclear guarantees. The USSR strives only to lower the level of the dangerous confrontation in Europe as far as possible, while maintaining equality and equal security. And the problem of how firm the "coupling" with the U.S. nuclear potential is lies exclusively within NATO's internal competence.

One last comment. Coupled with the proposal by the Warsaw Treaty member-states for a mutual non-use of force pact with the NATO countries, the Soviet proposals on medium-range missiles made on December 21, 1982, provide the optimum guarantees for European security. By inserting into the nuclear equation in Europe a purely European element, for the first time in the history of the postwar confrontation, the Soviet peace initiative creates the prerequisites for ensuring that security and life itself in Western Europe will not depend only on the order to fire nuclear missiles, issued in the United States.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD231812 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0945 GMT 23 Jan 83

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Aleksandr Yevgenyevich Bovin, IZVESTIYA political observer; Nikolay Vladimirovich Shishlin, international affairs journalist; and Viktor Nikolayevich Levin, all-union radio foreign affairs commentary]

Gromyko Visit to GDR

[Text] [Levin] Good day, esteemed comrade listeners: This week Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, visited the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic. Andrey Andreyevich returned from Berlin to Moscow on Friday, and subsequently a joint communique on Comrade Gromyko's visit to the GDR was published in the newspapers. This communique says, in part, that during the meetings and conversations between Comrade Gromyko and Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, the conviction was expressed that fraternal cooperation between the two states will continue to expand and deepen in all spheres of political, economic and cultural life for the well-being of their peoples and in the interests of communist and socialist construction, the cause of strengthening peace in Europe and securing international security. The monolithic unity of the CPSU and the SED and their loyalty to the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism are a reliable pledge of this.

The development of friendship and cohesion and the consolidation of unity by the socialist countries is a priority policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state, the basis of all our country's foreign policy activity. Comrade Gromyko's visit to the GDR has again demonstrated that very fact. The GDR is one of the Soviet Union's largest trading partners. Ties in all spheres of life are developing between us and recently, perhaps, the quality of our cooperation has been increasing.

[Shishlin] While speaking of mutual relations between socialist countries in these first weeks of 1983, it is probably apposite to point out that the joint policy of socialist countries and the coordinated foreign policy actions of socialist states engender specific hopes for 1983. I have in mind the decisions of the Political Consultative Committee conference, and also the individual actions of socialist countries, which are synchronized in a specific way both in terms of their content and their orientation. Thus in this respect, of course, Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko's negotiations in the GDR are part of the general foreign policy efforts of the socialist countries, aimed at smoothing international relations and improving the political climate both in Europe and throughout the world. Strictly speaking, the situation is, in fact, such that without active foreign policy actions and without bold, balanced intiatives, it is impossible today to set the situation to rights. The situation remains very difficult, very complicated and very grave.

[Levin] The Political Declaration of the Warsaw Treaty member-states demonstrates just such a forceful approach and we have every reason for saying that the visits which Comrade Gromyko made this week are already specific deeds toward realizing the Soviet peace initiatives put forward recently in the speeches by Comrade Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and in the Political Declaration of the Warsaw Treaty member-states. Incidentally, Comrade Honecker stressed during the negotiations in Berlin that the GDR, together with the USSR and the other fraternal states, will exert all efforts to accomplish the goals laid down in the Prague Political Declaration. It is the concentration of efforts on accomplishing these extremely important proposals contained in the Political Declaration -- primarily the proposal to conclude an agreement on mutual nonuse of military force -- which makes it possible to say that the socialist states are not merely proclaiming their will for peace, but are actively, purposefully and consistently implementing the decisions which have been adopted and are striving to

ensure that relaxation of tension is nevertheless rescued and given a second wind, and that the negative development of international relations is halted.

Dual Decision, Zero Option

[Bovin] It is precisely from this standpoint that Andrey Andreyevich's visit to the Federal Republic of Germany should be regarded, because as you all know comrades, 1983 is the year when NATO's so-called dual decision is to be implemented, that is, a decision which will lead to the appearance in Europe of a large number of new U.S. nuclear missile weapons. This circumstance is naturally rather unsettling and the Soviet Union is -- as expected -- and has always been against this and is actively fighting to prevent the implementation of this decision. From this standpoint a great deal of work is being done with regard to maintaining the balance of power in Europe and the approximate parity which exists. It was precisely an explanation of our position on this issue and of our new proposals as put forward by Comrade Andropov which formed the core of the negotiations conducted by Andrey Andreyevich in Bonn, in fact. There were other issues too, of course, but the main thing was this particular problem, the problem of the so-called Eurostrategic weapons, that is medium-range missiles, and strategic weapons as a whole.

As you have all probably read, Andrey Andreyevich said at a press conference that points of contact do exist, but that alongside these points of contact there are of course considerable divergences of view. First, this consist of the fact that the present ruling coalition in Bonn currently declares that it fully and actively supports the so-called zero option proposed by the Americans. Our position here, however, is unconditional: In no form and in no circumstances can we agree to this variant. We put forward our own variant for resolving this important problem and it was precisely the logic of this variant and the logic of our proposals which Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko expounded in Bonn. As you know, we proposed keeping the same number of these missiles as exist in France and Britain.

[Shishlin] That is, 162.

[Bovin] Yes, 162. There is a major problem here, of course, because the British and French categorically say no. They say this is their independent nuclear force which they consider should not be included in such negotiations.

[Shishlin] One gets the impression that nevertheless in West Europe, in spite of Kohl's apparently hard-line policy and such totally unconditional support for Reagan's zero option, some sort of shift in views has nevertheless taken place in West Germany. At any rate...

[Bovin interrupts] Most certainly.

[Shishlin] ...fairly well-founded comments have been made to the effect that Gromyko's visit has led to the West German Government's silent acknowledgement of the fact that the zero option proposed by Reagan cannot be preserved as the sole basis for attaining....[Bovin interrupts]

[Bovin interrupts] This circumstance is beginning to be increasingly well understood in Europe.

[Shishlin] Yes, and people in the West are making a number of unexpected discoveries, while discovering things which have long been known. Such as, for instance, the fact the Soviet Union is ready to count the number of nuclear warheads in the Geneva negotiations. They are discovering that the Soviet Union is ready to hold negotiations on the issue of a quantitative limit onits missiles whose operat've radius exceeds 1,000 kilometers. And the fact that the Soviet Union is ready to destroy some of its missiles on condition that an agreement is reached to maintain the balance of forces in Europe between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO.

[Levin] I would draw attention to the fact that in spite of repeated indications that the zero option is absolutely unacceptable to us, many questions on this matter were put to Andrey Andreyevich at his press conference in Bonn. Comrade Gromyko answered with utmost clarity. He pointed out that NATO now has 1 and 1/2 times as many nuclear warheads as the Soviet Union. If this same American zero option were adopted, the NATO would have twice as many carriers and three times as many nuclear warheads as we would. And in spite of the fact that specific data demonstrate very clearly and convincingly that a definite parity in the balance of forces exists at present and that there is a basis for agreement, talks are going on interminably. First one thesis is put forward, then another. Now you, Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich, have already mentioned the position of Britain and France.

It is sometimes even said in those countries that they are indeed not participants in the Geneva talks. No one is raising the issue that they should be participating in the Geneva talks and that the treaty which is being worked out, and I very much hope it will be worked out in Geneva, will encompass these countries.

[Bovin] It will be a bilateral treaty between the Soviet Union and America.

[Levin] That is quite so. However, we cannot fail to take into account the nuclear potential of Britain and France.

[Shishlin] After all, the Soviet position goes even further. While in the first stage we are prepared for their to remain 162 missiles on our side, that is the equivalent of the nuclear-missile forces of Britain and France, given the agreement of Britain and France to reduce the numbers of their missiles, we are ready to respond in a similar way.

[Bovin] But as yet, as far as I am aware, to judge from what has been carried in the press, both France and Britain are indeed intending to build up the numbers of their missiles.

[Levin] At the same time, a really absolute zero, as was said by Comrade Andropov in his replies to questions from the American political observer Kingsbury-Smith, would be the total elimination of both medium-range and tactical nuclear armaments in Europe.

[Bovin] But the West does not agree to this, and I think it is scarcely likely to in the very near future.

[Shishlin] True, there is some talk at present that the Americans, it is said, will perhaps not deploy Pershing missiles in West Germany but only deploy cruise missiles on the territory of other West European states. But in my view, all this only further clouds the already insufficiently clear prospects for the Geneva talks.

U.S. Arms Policy, Rostow

[Bovin] The prospects for the Geneva talks are not clear enough for many reasons and particularly because in general right now U.S. policy is not clear enough. Just now when the first half of Reagan's presidency has ended, the results of this policy and its directions -- and the possibilities of its changing or, conversely, of it not changing -- are being intently analyzed both in Europe and indeed in our country, the Soviet Union, particularly since Reagan recently retired Rostow, who had been director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Rostow was not altogether a friend of the Soviet Union by any means. To put it mildly, he was a very hard person and pursued a very hard line but even the hard line which was pursued by Rostow evidently did not suit Reagan because Adelman, who has been appointed in place of Rostow, is characterized in general as some kind of zealous anticommunist and zealous anti-Soviet figure of the same primative and vulgar kind as President Reagan himself.

[Shishlin] He is called a young ideologist of the hardline trend.

[Bovin] For this reason one can hardly think that there can be any sort of positive changes in this respect, although Reagan in his latest pronouncements -- evidently under pressure from allies and U.S. public opinion -- has been attempting at least to say words to the effect that it is possible that we shall bring the talks to a conclusion and that we shall remain at the negotiating table to the very end, and so on and so forth.

[Shishlin] I would like to cite something that THE LOS ANGELES TIMES said. It says that the Rostow episode is only a symbol of the plainly uneven state of affairs regarding the policy of the superpowers. After 2 months in power, Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov has been able draw up a sufficiently consistent Soviet policy toward the Americans and the West Europeans, while Reagan, who has been in power for 2 years, continues to dart this way and that.

[Bovin] In this connection, Reagan is at present, so to speak, coming under fire from both sides. On the one side, he is being attacked very grossly, say on the left, by people who are demanding that he pursue a milder and more well balanced and compromising policy and that he seek some sort of modus vivendi with the Soviet Union; and on the other, he is being attacked by those very people whose will he indeed expresses, the so-called forces of the new right. From their viewpoint, these new phrases being used by Reagan already appear as a terrible departure, so to speak, from those conservative positions which from their point of view Reagan should occupy. But I think that it is to no purpose that these same new right forces are abusing Reagan so, because it seems to me, after all, that while in the foreign policy field the language has changed, I have not noticed much a change in the policy itself.

[Levin] I would add, Aleksandr Yevgenyevich, the fact that Reagan is also coming under fire from his West European allies. This factor is of very great importance. I do not want to detract from the importance of American domestic factors, but this factor is very interesting and, in particular, I may cite the view of the British SUNDAY EXPRESS, which said recently: Ronald Reagan is a firm and straightforward person, and he plainly wants to be a strong leader of the free world; he has most chance of realizing this ambitious dream if he puts his own house in order and ensures that his government speaks clearly and unamibiguously and conducts talks honestly. If he is unable or does not want to do this, his friends and allies should intervene and show quite clearly that the problems of war and peace and of too great importance to be neglected.

[Bovin] Reagan came to power under the slogan of bringing the Russians to heel. This has in no way been achieved. On the contrary, the results of his 2 years show that with regard to the main lines of American foreign policy, Reagan has to his credit -- one might say -- only a liability; that is to say, whether one takes the sphere of European policy, or relations with the Soviet Union, or any other area, there is clearly nothing to boast of in this respect. On the contrary, America has now turned into a sort of bugbear for world public opinion. It is an object of mockery, because one could, so to speak, quote en masse newspapers which have been writing with such irony, sarcasm and mockery about the twists and turns at present being made by American policy.

[Shishlin] I would add that it is even being said that Reagan does not have a policy with regard to the Russians. I do not agree with this particular point of view. He does, of course, have a policy. It is another thing that it is a bad policy, a policy designed to achieve military superiority, which the Soviet Union will never allow.

It is a policy which seeks to wage a sort of trade war against the Soviet Union, and indeed against other socialist states. Incidentally, also of note -- and this, of course, is not a trade war -- is the deep disenchantment of our Chinese neighbors over their economic relations with the United States. There is, of course, also the quite fierce propaganda war which has not abated....

[Bovin -- interrupting] Indeed, Reagan's latest interview shows that he is continuing to wage this war with the ardor of his first presidential pronouncements. But here is a further interesting detail. Precisely indicative of this turmoil and these convulsions in American politics are the complex and, so to speak, strained relations which now exist in the White House itself, in particular between Reagan and his closest aids. The LOS ANGELES TIMES, for instance, writes that the mounting strain in relations between President Reagan, who is fully determined to hold on to the adopted course on the main issues, and senior White House advisers, who consider that midterm corrections, of course, are vital, has assumed such an acute character that the White House's methods of functioning is being radically changed. It goes on to say that previously the advisers still considered it possible to give advice to the President, saying things are better done this way or that. But now, since they are meeting with an absolute refusal by Reagan to pay heed to this advice, they simply report the opinion of this or that department without any comment. Let him sort it out himself.

[Shishlin] Another thing is that Reagan has prohibited his closest aides from having contact with journalists without his permission, because, it is claimed, he is infuriated at the constant leakage of information that casts further gloomy light on the line of the present administration in international affairs.

[Levin] Incidentally, recently the well-known American political observer Leslie Gelb, wrote in the NEW YORK TIMES, citing an official in the administration -- I do now know how he managed to meet the official under Reagan's prohibition -- but, citing the opinion of this official, Gelb wrote that when at the end of this month, on 27 January, the American participants in the talks return to Geneva, their position will be absolutely unchanged. This means that we are still faced with very acute and very complex talks on this problem.

But this by not means exhausts all the problems which face the world, and indeed the policy of the present Washington adminsitration may, after all, quite justifiably be said to be exacerbating the situation to a very great extent, by no means only in Europe.

Take the Near East. The Israeli aggressors are more and more actively striving to draw Syria into an armed conflict. Provocations in the Al-Biqa' Valley are occurring more and more frequently and becoming every more acute in character. Could Israel do this without support from the United States? I do not think so.

Or take the American military plans. Matters are reaching a stage where even American observers are writing about how it has emerged from a secret Pentagon report, a spine-chilling report, that the United States is preparing for an extended nuclear war. Not very long ago, it was reported that the Americans are now working out plans to conduct a war on many fronts outside the United States and to this end they wish to create reserves in advance in the appropriate areas, that is, in Europe, the Near East, South Korea and the Persian Gulf area, for conducting military operations for 90 days. And this mood is making itself very clearly felt.

[Shishlin] Here we must always consider the fact that all such plans, which for some reason or other turn up on the pages of the press, often appear purely as a means of political pressure, of psychological impact on us.

[Bovin] Yes, a specially engineered lack of information, that's what it is.

U.S.-Japan Relations

[Shishlin] But seriously speaking, of course, it's the United States trying in the same way as before, by hook or by crook, to commit all West European countries and Japan to implement its plans of increasing armaments and, in fact, of its entire line of putting pressure by means of force on the Soviet Union. In this connection, I want to mention the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone to the United States. Why did Nakasone go and what did he say? He said some rather serious words. He says he considers that all the Japanese islands should resemble an unsinkable aircraft carrier, providing a reliable shield against the penetration of Soviet Backfire bombers. The second aim should be to have absolute and total control over the four straits which surround the Japanese islands, so that Soviet submarines and ships could not use them. The third aim is to safeguard and maintain sea routes.

[Bovin] And this is precisely, so to speak, the role that the Japanese should play from the American point of view, and Nakasone completely agrees with this.

[Shishlin] Yes, but the background, you see, is basically different. Nakasone considers that by playing into the hands of the Americans in the military sphere, he will be able to uphold Japan's economic position. It is, in fact, payment for the energy with which Japanese companies are penetrating American markets, and not only American markets.

[Levin] I will produce a statistic in this connection. Japan has an active balance of trade with the United States amounting to $20 billion, which is really an impressive amount.

[Bovin] In this matter I understand the Americans. Of course they are very worried by this, it is weighing down their balance of trade and is a great disadvantage for them. And they are, of course, trying both to stir the Japanese somehow and to open up Japanese markets for themselves. The Japanese, although not formally opposing protectionism in order that free trade might exist, use all the tricks in the book to hinder the penetration of their own domestic market by American goods. Here lies the trouble. Nakasone's visit has shown that the Americans still have enormous trouble in taking the lid off Japan, so to speak, for themselves in the matter of trade. And Viktor Nikolayevich rightly said that Nakasone goes to meet them halfway in one respect in order to defend himself in another respect. But I think the game the Japanese are playing is a rather dangerous one.

[Shishlin] Yes, but there are even greater problems here, of course. This very line of the Reagan administration for a tough confrontation with the socialist world pains and worries us, and not only for the simple reason that it is directed against the security of our allies, and at ourselves.

[Bovin] Take Japan: For instance, all the countries of Southeast Asia and Indonesia, are all terribly worried by this circumstance. Newspapers in these capitalist countries and political figures say that they are again worried by the transformation of Japan into that same militaristic state which they remember very well from the times of the last war.

Reagan's Term, Reelection

[Levin] If we return to Reagan's 2 years of power, we can say that he reaps no dividends in his domestic policy. The failures are there for all to see. Reaganomics have not justified themselves to any degree: 32 million Americans now have an income lower than the official poverty line. According to government statistics, there are 12 million unemployed in the country, and the trade unions are even talking about 20 million.

[Bovin] Yes, this includes the partly unemployed.

[Levin] But nevertheless, the situation is getting worse and there are no prospects of a way out of this situation.

[Bovin] They have calculated that this year the increase will be around 2-3 percent, but it has just gone down by about 1.5 percent. But this has not yet been proved.

[Levin] So Reagan really does have nothing to brag about at the half-way point in his term of power.

[Bovin] An interesting question arises here. Will Reagan run for president again? That is a question which has not yet been decided. Reagan once said that he had to "feel", as he put it, whether the American people wanted him or not. So far, apparently, he has had no such "feeling", so the question remains an open one.

[Levin] Strictly speaking, he could aquire such a feeling. Recently the Gallup Institute held a public opinion poll which revealed that midway through his term of office, Reagan is not doing so well as the four previous presidents: His activity is approved by only 41 percent of those polled.

[Bovin] So all in all for the time being, there is a large amount of uncertainty in the matter. What do you think, Nikolayevich, will he run again for president or not? [Question addressed to Viktor Nikolayevich Levin, but Shishlin answers first]

[Shishlin] I don't think he will.

[Bovin] Yes, me too. Logic seems to point to the fact that he won't.

[Levin] I think that it's difficult to use concepts of logic here because sometimes in Reagan's actions.... [Shishlin interrupts]

[Shishlin] Yes, that's true.

[Levin] ...There is an absence of logic.

[Shishlin] That's true, that's true.

USSR Willing To Hold Arms Dialogue

[Levin] To wind up our program, I should like to return to the question that we touched upon right at the beginning. During his visit to Bonn, Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko held very thorough talks about the treaty on the mutual non-use of military force. He stressed that the basis of this treaty should be pledges by the members of both alliances, NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organization, not to be the first to use either nuclear or conventional weapons against one another. If this proposal were to be implemented, it would be a gain to the whole world, to everyone. During their talks with Comrade Gromyko, FRG Chancellor Kohl and other representatives of the West German Government said that the proposal by the Warsaw Treaty member states was being carefully studied. It would be good if there was a careful and serious attitude to our proposals everywhere. We are willing to hold a dialogue. Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko has stressed on more than one occasion that those questions which are still not clear and on which there is no coincidence of views must continue to be discussed.

[Bovin] And the proposals we are making are not, of course, some sort of ultimatum; we are ready to hold corresponding discussions and evaluate counterproposals, so long as reasonable counterproposals are in fact made.

[Shishlin] As far as a dialogue is concerned, it is still going on and has, in fact, never been interrupted. Another thing is that the Soviet initiatives, the conclusions drawn by the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee, and the specific foreign policy action by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have already now resulted in an intensification of that dialogue. This goes not only for our mutual relations with the FRG; it goes, too, for our relations with France. As everyone knows, Cheysson, the French foreign minister, is soon to pay a visit to the Soviet Union, and recently a large Soviet-French commission did some very fruitful work. And in fact the intensification of this dialogue holds out the promise, among other things, of giving results. We, naturally, want discussions not just for the sake of discussions; we want talks not just for the sake of talks, but talks which lead to tangible results and a dialogue which leads to constructive decisions.

[Levin] And to this end we, together with our friends and allies in the socialist countries, are doing the maximum possible. Here we end our program. Thank you, dear comrades, for listening, and goodbye.

CONDEMNATION OF U.S. 'CENTRAL COMMAND' REPORTED

LD191332 Moscow TASS in English 1259 GMT 19 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow January 19 TASS -- The Soviet public has strongly condemned the decision of the U.S. Administration to set up the so-called Pentagon's "Central Command", whose sphere of operation is to be the territory of 19 Asian and African states, says the statement issued today by the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee. The statement stresses that the new American military command is fraught with a threat to peace, sovereignty and security of many developing countries.

The discussion of the White House, the statement points out, has been suggested by the dangerous imperial ambitions of the present U.S. Administration, who are hatching absurd ideas of a world domination, strive to put up a roadblock on the way of advancement of the newly-free countries along the path of political and economic independence chosen by them, subordinate them to U.S. diktat by force or arms, increase the neocolonialist exploitation of oil and other riches of the countries in that region. It is also obvious that the USA intends to ensure from that venture, into which it is trying to draw also other NATO member-countries, certain military-strategic advances of a global scale, bearing in mind that the "Central Command's" zone of actions lies in close proximity to the Soviet Union's southern borders.

The statement says that Washington's fresh militaristic move again demonstrates for the world public to see that U.S. imperialism deliberately and purposefully stakes on military force, on crude interference in the internal affairs of sovereign nonaligned states, is out to escalate further international tensions and military danger. [sentence as received]

The countries of south-west Asia and East Africa, included into the "Central Command's" zone of actions, need no American patronage, the statement emphasizes. They are capable of solving both their domestic matters and problems arising between them. Imperialist interference, the more so military interference, as experience irrefutably proves, only aggravates conflicts in those areas, puts up new roadblocks in the way of their just settlement.

The Soviet solidarity committee has wholeheartedly supported the call by the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation for launching a campaign of mass actions against the setting up of a U.S. "Central Command".

TASS REPORTS REAGAN MIDTERM PRESS CONFERENCE

LD220036 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1650 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Washington, 21 Jan (TASS) -- On the occasion of his completing 2 years in power, President Reagan held a press conference, which he used to attempt to justify the administration's course, which, by general recognition, is bankrupt in the spheres of internal and external policy. He endeavored to lay all blame for the difficulties the country is undergoing on previous administrations. "Most of all I regret that, since the damage is so great and has been building up for so long, putting our house, putting America in order is a serious and difficult task," the President lamented. "What struck me most was that everything has turned out to be far worse than I thought. It is really a human tragedy that so many of our people today are enduring sufferings to pay off the political mistakes of the past."

This time R. Reagan preferred to stay silent about the cutbacks of many tens of billions of dollars on allocations for social needs, which he previously frankly upheld as a credit to the administration.

R. Reagan was asked whether he personally bore "responsibility for the failure in the economy, for the budget, which cannot be successfully controlled, or for large deficits and the high level of unemployment."

In reply, the President merely asserted that the U.S. economy is now allegedly "improving," and that the country "had been set on the right path."

The President's assertion that allegedly the "economic indices testify to the fact that we are on the way to reviving the economy," is so far from the truth that NBC television was compelled to remind him that the facts said the opposite. "When Reagan came into the White House," NBC pointed out, "the level of unemployment was 7.5 percent, or 8 million people, and in the following 3 months it continued to decline. Then unemployment steadily grew, reaching 10.8 percent, or 12 million people."

In the part of his speech dealing with the Geneva negotiations on nuclear arms limitations in Europe, R. Reagan did not refrain from stock sallies against the Soviet Union, making frank efforts to distort the USSR's position.

Disarmament Remarks Criticized

LD222359 Moscow TASS in English 2243 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow January 23 TASS -- The results of the present U.S. Administration's two-year period of office proved to be deplorable, writes the newspaper PRAVDA in connection with a press conference which was held at the White House on the occasion of two years of Ronald Reagan's presidency.

The failure of the administration in the sphere of foreign policy, which is based on the course of wrecking international cooperation, the course of armament and preparations for a nuclear war are particularly great.

In Washington they cannot but see the indisputable fact, the newspaper stresses, that the consistent peaceful policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state wins support of new and new [as received] millions of people in all parts on earth. The Soviet Union's peace initiatives, which are actively supported by other countries of the socialist community, pave the most correct way of improvement of the international situation. The aggressive imperialist circles seek hard to smear the policy of the great Soviet power, with the civilized world heeding its voice. The President of the United States indulges in that thankless activity.

He declares that allegedly the Soviet Union reserves the right to break promises, to change its course, to be dishonest, etc. But what about proofs? No proofs! What about facts? No facts! Where could he take the facts if they are simply non-existent.

Ronald Reagan, the chief administrator of the United States, knows that the cause of the particularly great concern in Europe and outside it is his intention to deploy, cost what it may, new American nuclear weapons -- the first-strike weapons, the weapons of aggression on the territory of a number of West European countries. Therefore, the boss of the White House spares no effort to somehow substantiate and justify this intention, the materialization of which threatens to turn Europe into a nuclear powder keg that can explode any minute.

The main means that the President resorted to in doing so was again lie [as received]. He assures that the United States and other NATO countries have no medium-range systems in Europe. But does the United States not have at its disposal in Western Europe forward-based nuclear systems, located in direct proximity of the frontiers of the USSR and its allies? Don't Britain and France have in their arsenals medium-range missile weapons? Have the armed forces of those countries not been always regarded as belonging to the NATO bloc?

At the White House they are fully aware that the peoples of Europe and other continents are vitally interested in the successful outcome of the Geneva negotiations, PRAVDA writes. Therefore, the President assures that the United States is going to continue the negotiations. The U.S. is going to continue the negotiations, but it is not going to lead the negotiations out of an impasse that it led the negotiations into even by its "zero option". Unprecendented programmes of armament are being intensively implemented, and the President views realization of those programmes as "the means of pressure" on the Soviet Union.

Haven't they at the White House yet understood that "power methods" towards the USSR have not achieved and will not achieve the aim?

ADMINISTRATION'S MIDTERM REPORT EXAMINED

LD211946 Moscow TASS in English 2030 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Washington January 21 TASS -- The White House has released a report on the results of the two years spent in office by the Reagan administration. What is at issue is a piece of naked propaganda whose aim is to publicize in every way the performance of the administration whose prestige is plummeting before the eyes of the Americans and the world public as a result of the failures of the "Reaganomics" and the course of open confrontation pursued by Washington on the international scene.

One can gather an idea of the "objectivity" of the report from the fact that its authors ascribe to Reagan the desire for "international peace and security", although in actual fact, as is known, his government has embarked on an unprecedented arms race, and open preparations for a nuclear war.

The report asserts that the U.S. is working to achieve an agreement on "substantial and verifiable cuts" in the most dangerous types of weapons down to "equal levels". The mendacity of these assertions is self-evident, for all the "initiatives" of the administration in this field aim at obtaining unilateral advantages, upsetting the rough parity of forces in the world at present, and achieving a unilateral disarmament of the USSR.

The report reiterates the hackneyed inventions of the administration about an alleged "unprecedented build-up" of Soviet might and the U.S. "lagging behind" the USSR in the military field, about the "use" of Soviet chemical weapons in Afghanistan and in South-East Asia. All these inventions, rejected by U.S. experts themselves and those of the United Nations, are needed by Washington to sell the U.S. public its own plans to escalate the arms race, and its active preparations for a chemical and bacteriological warfare.

Truly pathetic are the White House's attempts to present in a favourable light the economic programme of the present administration which has led the U.S. into a crisis unheard-of since the "Great Depression" of the thirties. Allowing that the U.S. is at present traversing the most painful recession in the whole of the post-war history, the report's authors attempt to put the blame for this at the door of the previous administrations.

The report contains no mention of the many unfulfilled Reagan pledges, such as balancing the federal budget whose deficit, according to the assessments of specialists of the administration itself, can exceed 200 billion dollars in the present financial year.

It would be futile to look in the report for data on unemployment which has become a veritable tragedy for millions of American families -- victims of a policy whose aim is to meet the needs and interests of the military-industrial complex and the monopolies. It was precisely during the two years of Ronald Reagan's presidency that the army of jobless in the U.S. increased by 4 million.

So it comes as no surprise that increasing number of Americans criticized Ronald Reagan's performance as U.S. President, performance which the report's authors go to such great length to publicize. According to the findings of a recent Louis Harris Poll, 61 per cent of Americans are dissatisfied with Reagan's performance of his duties. Compared with the year of 1981, the number of those not content with the course pursued by the U.S. President has more than doubled.

FURTHER COMMENT ON REAGAN'S 2-YEAR RECORD

Bovin in IZVESTIYA

PM211223 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Jan 83 Morning Edition p 5

[Article by A. Bovin under the rubric "Political Observer's Opinion": "Impasses at the Crossroads"]

[Text] R. Reagan has reached the middle of his term as president. In this connection the U.S. press is bristling with gloomy assessments. Here is one: "Now, 2 years after Reagan took office," observer A. Lewis writes in THE NEW YORK TIMES, "A terrible suspicion is beginning to dawn in Americans' hearts -- a suspicion which accords with reality: In power in their country is a government which cannot govern, a president who has his head in the clouds of his own fantasies, and an administration in which fools and scoundrels are to be found."

Let us leave aside the fools and scoundrels. They are to be "found" in any U.S. Administration. Let us concern ourselves with policy.

The incumbent U.S. President came to power as a representative and spokesman of the interests and feelings of the right wing, most conservative and aggressive flank of the U.S. bourgeoisie. The program proclaimed by Reagan accords with just these interests and feelings. In foreign policy -- though, uncompromising confrontation with the Soviet Union and the entire socialist community; overt opposition to the liberation and anti-imperialist movements; an intensive buildup of military might aimed at breaking the existing military-strategic partiy and ensuring a U.S. victory in a possible nuclear missile war and as a result the assertion of the United States' leading role in international affairs.

In domestic policy -- a sharp reduction of the role of the federal government in resolving socioeconomic questions; the lowering of taxes, affecting primarily the affluent strata of the population; recourse to a balanced state budget and as a result the revival of private business initiative and the restoration of an era of economic prosperity for the United States.

It is not hard to see that we have before us a program for reviving the United States' imperial greatness. Or to be more precise a program for the all-around consolidation of the positions of the most reactionary factions of the U.S. bourgeoisie both within the country and throughout the world. Reagan and his entourage did not bother to look too hard for methods. They "simply" proposed returning to the classic methods of classic 19th century capitalism: an offensive on working people's rights and living standards if we are talking of domestic policy, and the use of military force, pressure and intimidation if we are talking of foreign policy.

As was to be expected, nothing has come of it. The new President has failed to give America greatness. Rather the opposite, the bragging, incompetence and intellectual poverty of the creators and prophets of the "Reagan revolution" and their obvious inability to implement their own projects and blatant blunders and failures have led to a situation where people are increasingly frequently writing about Reagan's America with irony and sarcasm.

And deservedly, "Reaganomics" has one foot in the grave. However much people there may speak of some reduction in inflation and interest rates, there is not only not a single unemployed person but not even a single economist who would venture to assert that the United States has come closer to an era of prosperity. The economic catastrophe which has afflicted the United States, Yale University Professor (U. Nordkhaua) writes, is based on "a paralysis of economic policy which is hindering the implementation of an economic program of revival. The economy is sick and the doctors are standing helplessly at the sickbed, unable to agree either on diagnosis or treatment. To impotence is added fear -- fear in the face of the inexorable buildup of economic difficulties. The administration is "frightened to death." THE WALL STREET JOURNAL reports, quoting "a White House staffer." "It is frightened to death by the problems of social security, it is frightened to death by the federal reserve system and it would be far calmer if it did not have to draft a budget." Yet the budget must be drafted. And with a deficit of not $100 billion but possibly $200 billion.

Nor has the Reagan administration been successful in foreign policy. If it has frightened anyone, it is not us but its own allies. And its own fellow countrymen. Irresponsible talk of the permissibility of nuclear war and preparation for it in order to "win" it have whipped up the antiwar and antinuclear movement to an extent not seen for a long time in either Western Europe or the United States. Reagan said that this entire movement is the doing of "KGB agents." He was hissed. Then he said that he himself was prepared to head a column of demonstrators. They did not believe him.

Meanwhile, dissatisfaction is also growing in U.S. "upper echelons." An increasing proportion of the U.S. political elite is beginning to call for reason. "Any conflict involving nuclear weapons," A. Harriman says, "would be nothing but an action by countries which had taken leave of their senses. Those who believe that such a conflict is something less merely arouse my scorn because they are not in their right minds, and my pity because they are failing to display the common features of humanity which link us on our fragile planet."

I would not like to simplify the picture. Of course, in the United States itself and beyond there are still influential political circles which are ready to applaud and do applaud the strategists of confrontation. Nonetheless, it is becoming increasingly difficult for them to operate. To use technical terminology, the "impedance" ["soprotivleniye sredy"] is growing. This was shown in particular by the November elections in the United States. People who 2 years ago allowed themselves to be duped and believed Reagan and supported him are now trying to reassess their values.

The changes in public opinion have not gone unnoticed by the U.S. Administration. Long before the elections the White House's policy is beginning, in a number of sectors, to deviate from neoconservative cliches and to lurch and zigzag in various ways. A typical example is the raising of taxes by $98.3 billion in August last year. Nor can we fail to note the endeavors of G. Schultz, who is seeking at least partially to conceal the blatant incongruities in U.S. policy. There are even rumors that the White House is prepared to reduce the initial plans for military expenditure by several billion dollars.

But all this political cosmetic treatment merely confirms the unaltered nature of the White House's main strategic aims. Tough ideological schemes continue to suppress a sense of realism. In delaying its reply to the recent Soviet proposals the U.S. Administration has shown once more that it is not prepared for serious talks in Geneva. This can only be regretted.

What next? What will the second half of Reagan's term be like? Objective circumstances will undoubtedly push the U.S. politicians toward greater realism, an understanding of the limitation of their own opportunities and consideration for the interests of both their allies and their rivals. But objective circumstances become a factor in policy only when they are perceived by politicians and become motives for their behavior. Will the White House figures be able to emerge from the illusory world they have created into the actual, real world? Theoretically this transformation is possible. But in practice its likelihood is close to zero. The "zero option," if you like....

Of course, the Reagan administration, on coming up against the sharp corners of life, will obviously have to adapt, maneuver and change its emphases and phraseology. But the main thing will remain unchanged -- not a single serious problem will be fundamentally resolved. This is the cause of the general growth of opposition to the foreign policy of impasses, the intensification of differences in the Republican ranks, the ferment and new reshuffles in the top official echelon and the confusion, lack of coordination and contradictions in domestic and foreign policy. That is the prospect, it seems to me. I foresee neither "prosperity" nor "greatness...."

Korionov Article

LD231714 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1057 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Article entitled "As If in a Sieve of Water" by Vitaliy Korionov carried in 23 January PRAVDA]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jan (TASS) -- On the day which marked 2 years in power by the present U.S. Administration, the latest farce was staged in the White House. In the buildng where the press conference called for this occasion was held, a marine orchestra thundered and a gigantic stars-and-stripes flag hung from the ceiling. One of the journalists wrote that this made the press conference seem like "a birthday party for the President."

The reason for such a "party" is clear. The results of the present administration's 2 years in power are lamentable. The U.S. press is almost unanimous on this point.

THE NEW YORK TIMES notes: "A horrible suspicion is creeping into the hearts of Americans, corresponding to reality: There is a government in power in their country incapable of governing, a President up in the clouds of his own fantasies and an administration in which there are idiots and scoundrels..."

The administration's failures are particularly great in the sphere of foreign policy, which is based on a course aimed at wrecking international cooperation, developing armaments and preparing for nuclear war.

"After 2 months in his post," writes THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, "Yu. V. Andropov has been able to work out a fairly consistent Soviet policy toward the Americans and West Europeans while Reagan, after 2 years in power, continues to lurch from side to side." In its turn THE WASHINGTON POST adds: "Moscow spills out more and more new peace initiatives and the President tucks his head in and avoids answering by all possible means."

At his press conference even Reagan himself was forced to admit: "Putting our house, putting America in order is a very serious and difficult task... It really is a human tragedy that so many of our people are suffering today." Striving to distract the attention of his listeners from unattractive American reality, the President resorted to the usual ploy of Western politicians who feel the ground slipping out from under their feet. He started slandering the Soviet Union.

In Washington they cannot help seeing the undisputable fact, the newspaper stressed, that the consistent peaceful policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state is winning the support of more and more millions of people in all parts of the world. The USSR's peace initiatives, which are supported actively by other countries of the socialist community, pave the most correct way to improving the international situation. The aggressive imperialist circles seek hard to smear the policy of the great Soviet power, with the civilized world heeding its voice. The U.S. President indulges in thankless activity.

He declares that allegedly the USSR reserves the right to break promises, to change its course, to be dishonest, etc. But what about proof? No proof! What about facts? No facts! Where could he get the facts if they are simply nonexistent?

It would hardly be erroneous to suppose that the head of the White House has never held the works of V.I. Lenin in his hands. In his speech he nonetheless set about mumbling something indistinct on this subject too, ascribing to Lenin some sort of "10 commandments."

Ronald Reagan, the chief U.S. administrator, knows that the cause of the particularly great concern in Europe and outside Europe is his intention to deploy, whatever the cost, new U.S. nuclear weapons -- the first strike weapons, the weapons of aggression on the territory of a number of West European states. Therefore the boss of the White House spares no effort to somehow substantiate and justify this intention, the materialization of which threatens to turn Europe into a nuclear powder keg which can explode at any minute.

The main means that the President resorted to using in doing so was again a lie. He gave assurances that the United States and other NATO countries have no medium-range systems in Europe. But does the United States have forward-based nuclear systems, located in direct proximity to the borders of the USSR and its allies, at its disposal in Western Europe? Do not Britain and France have medium-range missile weapons in their arsenals? Have not the armed forces of those countries been always regarded as belonging to the NATO bloc?

There is hardly a sentence without a distortion. The President declares, for example, that the USSR allegedly "does not want the other side to have even one weapon of a deterrent (!) nature." But in reality the USSR is not proposing a reduction of Britain's and France's nuclear arsenals at all. It is simply pursuing the argument that these weapons must be taken into account when the existing nuclear balance is weighed at talks.

The stance of the USSR on this question was set out with maximum clarity by Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee: "We are ready, in particular, to accept that the USSR should maintain in Europe only as many missiles as France and Britain have and not one more. This means that the USSR would cut back hundreds of missiles, including more than one dozen [ne odin desyatok] of the modern missiles, known in the West as SS-20's. As far as the USSR and the United States are concerned, on matters of medium-range missiles, this would really make an honest 'zero' option. If the number of British and French missiles were reduced in future, the number of Soviet missiles would be reduced by that additional number."

What is Washington's position? It leaves no room for doubt. It will deploy Pershing-II and cruise missiles on the ground in Europe. The President says, without beating around the bush: "We are resolved to do this by the planned dates."

Now, what about the talks in Geneva? When correspondents tried to find out what the real U.S. position is at these talks, the President vaguely stated: "One cannot talk openly about strategy or tactics." They are aware in the White House that the peoples of Europe and other continents are vitally concerned in the successful outcome of the Geneva talks. That is why the President is affirming that the United States "plans to continue the talks." So, "it plans" to continue "the talks" but it does not plan to get them out of the deadlock into which it has driven the talks with its "zero option." As the President sees their implementation as a "means of pressuring" the USSR, surely the White House must have realized by now that "forcible methods" with respect to the USSR have not achieved and will not achieve the end.

Reading the President's speech, one automatically recalls the Russian proverb: There is much truth as there is water in a sieve. By the latest anti-Soviet farce the head of the White House clearly aims at masking the failures in his policy over the past 2 years. This venture has not succeeded and will not succeed.

Moscow TV's Zorin

LD220006 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Jan 83

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Text] International publications are printing numerous articles dedicated to the Reagan administration's completion of 2 years in power, summing up its activity and various forecasts. Valentin Zorin, Soviet television's observer, is at the microphone.

[Zorin] Hello, comrades. One might think that the second anniversary of the Washington administration is not the sort of event to call forth the stream of commentaries that has appeared this time; yet, in the present instance, such interest is justified.

The point is that in 2 years, the loss of half of Reagan's presidential mandate and the inconsistency and collapse of the whole political course of the Republican Party's government, both in domestic and foreign policy, has shown itself with full clarity. This collapse, which is noted by practically all observers, including some close to the White House, is all the more impressive because the threatening stance of the present rulers in Washington when they took up the reins of power in January 1981 was, to say the least, pretentious. In the field of domestic policy, they retreated from the policy of state economic regulation -- which had been followed for 50 years, since Roosevelt's day -- declaring that giving a free hand to big business would be the panacea that would haul the U.S. economy out of the slough of crisis. In the sphere of foreign policy, President Reagan's new start -- without false modesty, Washington has given precisely this title to its political course -- meant in effect a denial of the policy of easing international tension, leading to an undermining of the parity of courses that had taken shape, and the acquisition of military superiority over the Soviet Union, the crushing of national liberation movements and a return to the times when the United States could push its Western partners around.

However, Reagan's new start has remained just that: a new start. Not one of the tasks proclaimed by the Republican government has been completed; not only that, they could not be completed. On the contrary, it is difficult to recall another government in recent U.S. history that in less than 2 years since coming to power, had such a thoroughly passive balance-sheet as the Reagan government has acquired.

The promised quick cure to economic ills has turned into a crisis, the deepest and most serious crisis since the time of the economic disaster at the beginning of the 1930's: 12 million completely unemployed and tens of millions of Americans living in hourly fear of losing their jobs; falling production; a national debt that now exceeds $1 trillion.

As for Washington's foreign policy, it is evidently no accident that many U.S. authorities are now saying that it is in ruins. There is no point in repeating what is well known: all the failures of Reagan's diplomacy. The question now worrying many correct-thinking public figures, in Washington as well, is this: Will the administration leaders draw the correct conclusions from their failures and behave with more realism and responsibility in the remaining 2 years? Many facts, including Reagan's press conference yesterday, delivered in cold-war tones, compel us to have doubts about this.

However, actual reality is a stubborn thing. Attempts to ignore it, presuming that the course of history depends on the wishes of the White House, has already cost its masters dear. Stubbornly persisting in these mistakes will cost still more. In spite of its claims to be making a new start, this whole business did not begin with Reagan; nor will it end with him.

PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN ON MISSILE DEPLOYMENT VIEWED

LD2123+2 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1610 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Washington, 21 Jan (TASS) -- THE WASHINGTON POST gives new details today on how the Reagan administration is conducting "an unprecedented campaign of public diplomacy with the aim of winning support of sceptically minded West Europeans for its policies in the sphere of control over armaments." This program has been set up in response to an executive directive signed by Reagan last Friday. According to this directive, a new interdepartmental group has been set up under the leadership of W. Clark, presidential national security adviser. In this framework, a special planning group is being created that is headed by P. Dailey, an advertising expert and currently U.S. ambassador to Ireland. This group will be doing everything possible to persuade the Europeans to accept Reagan's "zero option". In the current fiscal year, $20 million is being set aside from the budget of the U.S. information agency for the implementation of this new program. The overall cost of the program will be $65 million.

U.S. observers note in this connection that the large-scale campaign to "sell" the militaristic designs of the White House to the West Europeans has been planned along lines similar to those for selling second-hand cars to inexperienced buyers. The chief strategy is advertising. This means advertising the American way of life, advertising the notorious "care" Washington takes of its NATO partners, advertising the nonexistent peace-loving intentions of the administration.

THE NEW YORK TIMES notes that the decision to develop a "new strategy" in the sphere of official propaganda was taken in the wake of the West European tour by G. Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state, in December 1982. He was told there that "the leaders of West European countries view with pessimism the prospects of U.S. nuclear missile deployment in 1983 in the context of the growing movement of protest against U.S. policies."

In the FRG for instance, more than half of the population is against the deployment of the new U.S. missiles, as French television reports. There is growing discontent with White House policies also within the United States itself, as shown particularly by the results from a referendum held at the end of last year on the proposal to freeze nuclear armaments, which won support from the majority of Americans who took part in it.

Washington's position, with its attempts to deploy at any cost the "Pershing II's" and cruise missiles on West European territory in an effort to disturb the existing approximate equality in armaments, is particularly unattractive against the background of the constructive proposals by the USSR that are based on the spirit of realism and a sense of responsibility.

In these circumstances, the White House is forced to maneuver and make more new propagandist efforts in order to camouflage the true objectives of its policies.

TASS Observer Serov

LD220958 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0734 GMT 22 Jan 83

["Disinformers at the Service of Washington" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jan (TASS) -- TASS political observer Vladimir Serov writes:

On the decision of U.S. President R. Reagan, an interdepartmental group has been set up in Washington with the task of "countering the Soviet peace offensive" and "explaining U.S. policy to the public." The group is headed by the President's security assistant, W. Clark. At the same time, U.S. Ambassador in Ireland P. Dailey has been instructed to coordinate work aimed at obtaining the unconditional support of Washington's allies for its policy of siting new American missiles on the European Continent.

Both of these extraordinary measures are being explained by the fact that opposition to American nuclear-missile plans is growing fast in West Europe, while in the United States itself the movement for a freeze of nuclear arsenals is spreading. These measures were taken after Secretary of State Shultz, on his return from a tour of West Europe, reported to the White House chief that U.S. policy is "poorly understood and poorly presented" in West Europe.

And so, in order to "present" Washington's policy in a "favorable light" to West Europeans, specialists in political advertizing and masters of misinformation able to make black look white were urgently mobilized. Ambassador Dailey, former chief of an advertizing firm in the western United States, a man who was involved in orchestrating Reagan's preelection campaign in 1980 -- and 8 years before that R. Nixon's preelection campaign -- was called from Dublin to the banks of the Potomac. Clark's group also includes C. Wick, the director of the U.S. Information Agency — chief coordinator of the notorious project "truth" who, in spite of his title, was called upon to misinform the international public, to distort the essence of the USSR's peace-loving policy and to justify Washington's militarist course which is dangerous for the people. An example of such misinformation is the attempt to disseminate Reagan's so-called "zero option," which means one-sided disarmament of the Soviet Union, as a manifestation of Washington's "love of peace."

But is it possible to prove the unprovable? Is it possible to make the West Europeans believe in the Reagan administration's "love of peace," if the United States rejects all the USSR's genuinely peace-loving and constructive proposals and strives to achieve just one thing: the deployment in West Europe of new U.S. missiles and transforming the continent into a potential "theater" for the devastating nuclear war that is being contemplated by the Pentagon?

No verbal juggling acts from Wick's department will convince the public that the Pentagon's "top brass" cares for peace when it is implementing an unprecedented 5-year arms buildup program to the value of over $1.6 trillion, or that the authors of the senseless Pentagon doctrines of "limited" and "protracted" nuclear war are concerned for the fate of the peoples. Nor will they be able to convince the public that the Soviet Union, which has undertaken the commitment not to be the first to use the nuclear weapons, is allegedly hatching "aggressive schemes," while Washington, which refuses to undertake such a commitment is, so to speak, full of "the very best intentions."

PRAVDA's Korionov Cited

LD221316 Moscow TASS in English 1256 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS -- U.S. President Reagan has ordered the establishment of a special committee at the Cabinet level whose duties, according to press reports, will include the planning of propaganda of the administration's foreign policy, Vitaliy Korionov writes in PRAVDA. In this way, he stresses, the purpose of this move is to establish the "headquarters" of subversive propaganda intended to foment cold war and to foster hatred and enmity among nations. "The establishment of the committee is further proof of the fact that Washington is making feverish efforts to push through its militarist programmes, which are rejected by the progressive public of the world."

The White House's propaganda machine has been out of kilter during all these years, the author recalls. It has been continuously "restructured" and "reorganized". The reactionary media of the United States are increasingly worried that the world does not believe what they are saying. "Indeed, only those who want to be deceived can believe, say, Washington's claim that the new deadly weapons filling the American arsenals are 'peace-keepers'."

Naturally, the commentary points out, belief of official American propaganda is plummeting. The press reports that two years ago almost 70 percent of the American population subscribed to the idea of a U.S. "rearmament", whereas today the figure is a mere 17 per cent. About 75 per cent of the American men and women polled support the idea of freezing nuclear arsenals.

The White House is nervous, the author concludes. "It hopes that by establishing new 'headquarters' of militarist propaganda it may be able to dupe some sections of the population and to sell them on its hawkish plans. But it will hardly be so. The peoples are ever better understanding the true state of world affairs and any attempt to mislead them is bound to fail."

U.S. PERSHING II TEST LAUNCH REPORTED

LD220027 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1845 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] New York, 21 Jan (TASS) -- It is reported from Cape Canaveral, Florida, that the United States carried out today a regular test-launching of a "Pershing-II" medium-range missile with nuclear warhead capability. A spokesman for the U.S. Army command in Huntsville, Alabama, stated that in the course of the flight, which lasted about 1 minute, tests were carried out on various mechanisms, including the missile-propulsion system and its maneuverability upon entering the dense layers of the atmosphere.

As reported earlier, in November 1982, the U.S. Army command had to postpone for an indefinite period the testing of "Pershing-II" after an experimental missile launching from the White Sands testing ground in New Mexico ended in failure. Three previous missile tests also ended in failure.

ZAGLADIN HINTS AT SOVIET PULLOUT FROM AFGHANISTAN

AU240820 Rome ANSA in English 0815 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Excerpt] (ANSA) -- Rome, January 24 -- The possibility of a Soviet pullout from Afghanistan was hinted at by Vadin Zagladin, the deputy chief of the Soviet Communist Party Foreign Bureau, in an interview published in today's edition of the Rome daily, PAESE SERA.

"We have reached a new stage now", the Soviet party official said and referred to "contacts underway between Afghanistan and Pakistan and a possible political solution to put a halt to external intervention and allow the withdrawal of our soldiers".

Since the Soviet invasion of the neighboring state in December 1979, Moscow has repeatedly declared that the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country could not take place until outside interference in Afghan affairs had ended.

Zagladin affirmed that "it is difficult to say" when this pullout might be ordered "because we are not taking part in the talks. I know, however, that the Afghan Government wants to reach a political solution as quickly as possible", he said.

AFGHAN CONSULATE GENERAL OPENS IN TASHKENT

Credentials Presented

WA241600 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 15 Dec 82 p 1

[UZTAG report: "In the Uzbek SSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs"]

[Text] Mohammad Nasim Juya, DRA consul general, has visited the Uzbek SSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He presented his credentials to B.A. Abdurazakov, Uzbek SSR minister of foreign affairs -- the authorization attesting to his recognition by the USSR Government.

A friendly conversation took place during which confidence was expressed that the opening of the DRA Consulate General in Tashkent will make possible the further development of fraternal Soviet-Afghan relations and the deepening of mutual understanding between the peoples of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. Officials of the Consulate General accompanied M.N. Juya. Responsible workers of the Uzbek SSR Foreign Ministry were present at the meeting.

Biography of Consul General

WA241601 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 15 Dec 82 p 1

[Unattributed report: "DRA Consul General in Tashkent: Mohammad Nasim Juya"]

[Text] Mohammad Nasim Juya was born in 1950 in Baglan.

Since 1968 he has been a member of the PDPA. After finishing the Kabul Polytechnical Institute in 1978 he worked as an engineer in the Ministry of Mining and Industry. In later years he was in party work. He was deputy first secretary and acting first secretary of the PDPA Kabul Provincial Committee and a responsible worker in the PDPA Central Committee's Department of Agitation, Propaganda and Education.

Until his appointment as DRA consul-general in Tashkent he was a member of the Executive Committee and secretary of the Central Council of the DRA National Patriotic Front.

USTINOV MEETS VIETNAM'S ARMY CHIEF IN MOSCOW

OW231124 Moscow in Vietnamese to Vietnam 1000 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Soviet Marshal Ustinov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet defense minister, met on 21 January with Colonel General Le Trong Tan, chief of General Staff of the VPA [Vietnam People's Army], now on an official visit to the Soviet Union.

The talks proceeded in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship and dealt with issues of mutual concern. Also present at the talks were Soviet Marshal Ogarkov, chief of General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces and first deputy defense minister, General Yepishev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, and SRV Ambassador Dinh Nho Liem.

EFFECTS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE ON VIETNAM ASSESSED

Symposium in Ho Chi Minh City

LD230442 Moscow TASS in English 0905 GMT 22 Jan 83

["USA: War Crimes in Vietnam" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS -- TASS news analyst Yevgeniy Verlin writes: The United States was waging against Vietnam a war without precedent in human history. This conclusion has been drawn by the participants in a scientific symposium, which ended in Ho Chi Minh last Thursday. The symposium discussed the consequences of the use of military toxic substances by the Pentagon in Vietnam. Reports delivered by scientists from 21 countries convincingly demonstrated that operation "Ranch Hand" carried out by the U.S. Army in Vietnam's southern provinces between 1961 and 1971 had catastrophic consequences for nature of vast areas and for the people living there. Even today hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese and their children suffer from grievous diseases induced by exposure to Agent Orange and other military toxins.

The pain, suffering and death of victims of chemical warfare are beyond comparison, although in the United States, where everything can be expressed in terms of dollars, a yardstick of sorts have been found by lawyers of the 67,000 former GI's affected by Agent Orange, sprayed by U.S. planes.

They argue that that if the court establishes the connection between exposure to Agent Orange and deformities in children and diseases of their parents, veterans of the Vietnam war, the latter may lay claim to 40 billion dollars in compensation from the Pentagon and the companies producing chemical agents. But what if the Pentagon were sued by the 1.6 million Vietnamese affected by Agent Orange? The destruction of the ecological environment in South Vietnam by chemical warfare resulted in huge economic losses, for instance, the yields of farm crops raised there has been more than halved because of the effect of chemical agents on about 2.5 million hectares of forest and 1.3 million hectares of farmland. This means that the population gets over one million tons of grain crops, vegetables and fruit less than it could have obtained.

There is every reason to characterise the U.S. chemical warfare in Vietnam, amounting to large-scale ecocide and genocide, as a war crime, this definition is in full accord with a number of international conventions and protocols recording the generally recognized code of conduct for participants in armed hostilities. The USA as an aggressor state is responsible for the damage done to the country which fell victim to its aggression. But today, ten years after the signing of the Paris accord on ending the war and restoring peace in Vietnam, the United States does not even mention its commitment recorded in it to make a contribution towards healing the wounds of war and carrying out post-war rehabilitation in Vietnam.

Scientists from different countries stressed in Ho Chi Minh that it will take 100-150 years or even several centuries to restore the environment in those areas of Vietnam which were exposed to chemicals. Some of them pointed out the possibility that the ecological processes triggered by chemical weapons could be irreversible. If they are right, tropical forests will be replaced forever by dull landscapes overgrown with thistle, or "American grass" as local farmers call it.

In the early 1980s the United States initiated the large-scale production of chemical weapons, setting aside billions of dollars for the purpose. The example of Vietnam shows that the large-scale use of these weapons -- which undoubtedly is one of the Pentagon's intentions in another war -- is fraught with grave danger to the whole of mankind.

TASS Report

LD201228 Moscow TASS in English 1121 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City January 20 TASS -- The impassioned call for peace, a call to expedite the elaboration of an international convention on the prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons was voiced these days in Ho Chi Minh City where an international symposium on the study of aftermaths of the effect of chemical agents on the human organism and the environment completed its work. The symposium was attended by more than 140 scientists from 21 countries -- medical specialists, chemists, biologists and ecologists. Tens of reports on the U.S. chemical war against the Vietnamese people and on its consequences were presented at the plenary meetings and in panels. A final document which was unanimously adopted by the participants in the symposium points out that the so-called "Ranch Hand" operation which the U.S. Army carried out in the southern provinces of Vietnam in 1961-1972 constituted an undeclared chemical war which by its scope, duration and consequences had no precedent in mankind's history.

The massive use of chemical agents, including such highly toxic poison as dioxin, had disastrous and in many respects irreversible consequences for human health and the environment of Vietnam. Victims of the "chemical experiments" were not only those who were directly exposed to the actions of defoliants and herbicides but their children as well. The toxic agents induced disorders in the genetic structure of the organism and hereditary anomalies. Thousands of people in Vietnam now suffer from neoplastic diseases, the document points out.

The restoration of the undermined ecological balance will also require many decades. It is not soon [as received] that the tropical forests and fertile soils -- the principal natural wealth of Vietnam -- will heal the heavy wounds inflicted by the U.S. aggressors. The participants in the symposium urged the scientists of all countries to struggle jointly for the overcoming of the ruinous consequences of the chemical war. They emphasized that unselfish and all-round help to the Vietnamese people is utterly essential.

Vo Nguyen Giap, vice-chairman of the SRV's Council of Ministers, speaking at the concluding meeting of the symposium, pointed out that the representative international forum in Ho Chi Minh City is not only of immense scientific and practical importance. It has become a powerful factor in uniting the scientists of the whole world in the struggle against the production and stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction, for the prevention of chemical and any other war being prepared by the forces of imperialism. Vo Nguyen Giap called on the scientists to make their authoritative contribution to the cause of strengthening peace and international security and to the development of relations of friendship between the peoples of all countries.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON GROMYKO VISIT TO GDR

LD211640 Moscow TASS in English 1632 GMT 21 Jan 83

["Joint Communique on Andrey Gromyko's Visit to the GDR" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Berlin January 21 TASS -- Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, stayed on an official friendly visit in the German Democratic Republic on January 19-21, 1983 at the invitation of Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, chairman of the Council of State of the GDR.

A number of questions of the further consolidation of relations of fraternal friendship and all-round cooperation between the USSR and the GDR were discussed during Andrey Gromyko's and Erich Honecker's conversations that passed in a heartfelt atmosphere. Views were also exchanged on topical international problems, and first of all those of them that concern the present situation in Europe.

The sides unanimously expressed their satisfaction with the fruitful development of relations between the USSR and the GDR. This fully according with the decisions of the 26th Congress of the CPSU and the 10th Congress of the SUPG, and also with the letter and spirit of the October 7, 1975 Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance.

Note was made of the importance of the meetings and regular contacts between the general secretaries of the Central Committees of the CPSU and the SUPG which impart the decisive impulses for deepening and perfecting the interaction of both countries. This found its new vivid confirmation during the recent meetings between Yuriy Andropov and Erich Honecker.

The conviction was expressed that the fraternal cooperation of both states will further expand and deepen in all fields of political, economic and cultural life for the good of their peoples, in the interests of communist and socialist construction, the cause of strengthening peace in Europe and ensuring international security. The monolithic unity of the CPSU and the SUPG, their loyalty to the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism are a reliable earnest of this.

The Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic are fully resolved to facilitate in every way the further cohesion of the socialist community, the enhancement of its defence capability, the development of socialist economic integration, the perfection of the coordination of the foreign policy activity of the fraternal countries.

The sides confirmed the unity of their views in the appraisal of the obtaining situation in the world, the causes of the present dangerous worsening of international tension. It is caused by the actions of the most aggressive circles in the West, first of all in the United States, which in their attempts to achieve military superiority over the socialist community are spiralling the arms race, are pursuing the course of building up confrontation, whipping up conflicts and rude interference in the internal affairs of other states. This policy is alien to the interests of peace and increases the danger of nuclear conflict. For this reason it is resolutely rejected by all peaceloving forces in the world.

The socialist countries are giving this policy the repulse it deserves and range against it their own consistent course directed at ensuring the peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems, at preserving and continuing the process of detente, at maintaining, and at lower levels at that, the existing military-strategic balance between the USSR and the USA, and on the whole between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO. They have done and will do everything depending on them to lessen the war danger, to turn for the better the development of unfavourable tendencies in international relations, to return these relations to the normal channel. Possibilities for this exist and the vital interests of mankind demand that they be utilised.

On uniting their efforts the states and peoples can ward off the war threat. The Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the CPSU Central Committee called for such a joining of efforts in their December 22, 1982 Appeal to the Parliaments, Governments, Political Parties and Peoples of the World.

Special note was made of the significance of the Political Delcaration adopted at the recent meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of Warsaw Treaty member states in Prague. The initiatives of these states, contained in it, are imbued with one concern -- to consolidate the mainstays of peace in the European Continent and in the whole world.

The sides expect that the proposals of socialist countries will be studied with all attention and responsibility by all states to which they are addressed. The implementation of these proposals, and first of all the conclusion between the Warsaw Treaty member states and the NATO member states of a treaty on mutual non-use of military force and maintenance of relations of peace, the core of which would be the mutual commitment of the members of both alliances not to be the first to use either nuclear or conventional arms against each other, undoubtedly would make an invaluable contribution to the improvement of the international climate, to ensuring the peaceful future of all peoples.

The pressing need was stressed of achieving appropriate accords at the Soviet-American talks on the limitation and reduction of strategic arms where advance is blocked by Washington's non-constructive approach. The GDR, Erich Honecker stated, fully approves and supports the principled line of the USSR at these talks.

When studying the situation in Europe both sides noted that the intention of the United States Administration to deploy hundreds of new nuclear missiles in some West European NATO countries by the end of 1983, if carried out, would bring about a serious aggravation of the situation in the continent and in the world as a whole. This is an attempt by Washington to upset the global and regional balance of forces, to ensure for the United States military advantages at the expense of a drastic reduction of the security of other states. The fulfilment of such plans would compel the socialist countries to take counter measures with the aim of ensuring their security.

The United States should stop its tactics of procrastinating the talks on the limitation of nuclear arms in Europe and demonstrate by deeds its readiness to search for a just agreement meeting the principle of equality and equal security. A real possibility to reach agreement is offered by the proposals outlined by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Yuriy Andropov at the celebration meeting in the Kremlin to mark the 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR. They make it possible to ensure equality between the Warsaw Treaty Organisation and NATO in medium-range nuclear weapons -- both missiles and aircraft. The possibility exists now of stopping the increase of nuclear arsenals and starting their reduction. It is now up to the United States and NATO.

Andrey Gromyko informed Erich Honecker of his conversations with FRG leaders during his official visit in Bonn. At these conversations the main attention from the Soviet side was given to questions of ending the nuclear arms race, first of all in Europe.

Erich Honecker stated complete support for the position of the Soviet Union presented by Andrey Gromyko in West Germany. The sides expressed the hope that the West German Government would again weigh up all the dangerous consequences of the deployment of new U.S. medium-range missiles on West German territory and contribute towards a solution of the problem that would not impinge upon anyone's legitimate security interests and would lead to lessening the level of military confrontation on the continent.

The need was reiterated to rid Europe of such weapons of mass destruction as chemical weapons. The USSR and the GDR jointly with their Warsaw Treaty allies are prepared to make a concrete contribution towards the accomplishment of this task in the interests of strengthening European security.

The sides continue to attach much importance to the Vienna talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe. They are convinced that agreement on this question is possible and attainable if the Western participants in the talks show political will for a search of equitable and mutually acceptable decisions.

The Soviet Union and the GDR together with the other Warsaw Treaty member countries advocate, as the initial practical step, reductions in the armed forces and armaments of the USSR and the USA in central Europe on the basis of mutual example. This is further proof of a constructive approach of the socialist countries to the Vienna talks.

Proceeding from the need for the consistent continuation of the process initiated by the European conference, the sides expressed themselves in favour of the successful completion of the Madrid meeting scheduled to resume its work shortly. The adoption of a meaningful and well-balanced final document, including the decision to convene a conference on confidence-building measures and disarmament in Europe, in Madrid would give a fresh energetic impetus to the cause of struggle for detente and security on the European Continent.

The USSR and the GDR consider it to be their internationalist duty to further give moral, political and economic support to socialist Poland. The attempts by the United States and some of its NATO allies to use "sanctions" against the Polish People's Republic and to interfere in other ways in its internal affairs constitute a crude violation of generally accepted norms of international law and the fundamental principles of the Helsinki Final Act. The USSR and the GDR are at one with the Polish People's Republic that these attempts should be strongly rebuffed.

Respect for the political and territorial realities of today's Europe is an indispensable condition of the maintenance of relations of peace and of the extension of mutual understanding and trust between states in the continent. In this context it was noted that the strict observance of the socialist countries' treaties with the Federal Republic of Germany, and also the quadripartite agreement on West Berlin continue to be as important as ever.

Both sides voiced profound concern over the dangerous development of events in the Middle East, caused by Israel's unceasing aggression, in particular in Lebanon, and also by Washington's policy directed at encouraging the aggressor, at expanding the military-political presence of the United States in this area. The sides reiterated that a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East problem should be based on meeting the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish their own state, on Israel's unconditional withdrawal from all the Arab territories seized by it since 1967, and on ensuring the right of all the states in the region to secure an independent existence and development.

The visit confirmed the complete unaniminity of the sides on all the questions under consideration.

Gromyko Returns to Moscow

LD211538 Moscow TASS in English 1529 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Msocow January 21 TASS -- Andrey Gromyko, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR foreign minister, returned to Moscow from Berlin today. He stayed in the German Democratic Republic on an official visit at the invitation of Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and chairman of the GDR Council of State.

Andrey Gromyko was welcomed at the airport by Mikhail Gorbachev, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and a secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Boris Ponomarev, an alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and a secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and other officials.

The welcoming party included Wolfgang Grabowski, charge d'affaires ad interim of the GDR in the USSR.

FRG ambassador to the USSR Andreas Mayer-Landrut was also present at the airport.

Television Reports Arrival

LD212318 [Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian at 1815 GMT on 21 January in its evening Vremya newscast carries a report on Gromyko's return to Moscow from Berlin showing Gromyko being met at the airport by Gorbachev, Ponomarev, Chervonenko, a CPSU Central Committee department chief, and other officials.

CROATIAN PREMIER CONFERS WITH ALEKSEY ANTONOV

LD230446 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1738 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow, January 22 (TANJUG) -- Premier of the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia Ante Markovic and Soviet Vice-Premier Aleksey Antonov conferred here Friday evening on economic cooperation between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union.

Industrial cooperation, especially in the machine-building sector, was also discussed.

Markovic has had a number of meetings with Soviet trade and industry representatives in Moscow.

KUZNETSOV, RUSAKOV VISIT SFRY EMBASSY 18 JAN

LD190836 Moscow in Serbo-Croatian to Yugoslavia 1700 GMT 18 Jan 83

[Text] On 18 January, Vasiliy Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Konstantin Rusakov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Viktor Maltsev, first deputy minister of foreign affairs; Gennadiy Kiselev, deputy department head in the CPSU Central Committee; and Vasiliy Grubyakov and Dmitriy Nikiforov, department heads in the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited the SFRY Embassy in Moscow in connection with the death of the prominent Yugoslav politician Vladimir Bakaric, vice president of the SFRY Presidency and member of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, and signed the book of condolences.

BRIEFS

OIL FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA -- A contract for deliveries of oil and oil products from the Soviet Union to Czechoslovakia for 1983 was signed in Moscow by representatives of the all-union association for foreign trade soyuznefteeksport and the chemopol joint stock company. The contract which exceeds R2 billion provides for deliveries of raw materials and semifinished products of extraordinary importance for our national economy. [Text] [Prague Domestic Service in Czech 0500 GMT 14 Jan 83 LD]

KOHL-REAGAN 'SECRET AGREEMENT' REVEALED

DW232032 Moscow in German to Germany 1600 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Dear listeners, the news agency REUTER reports from Bonn that rumors are making the rounds in West German Government circles to the effect that U.S. President Reagan and Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl have secretly agreed on the deployment of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles. According to these rumors, Kohl reportedly promised Reagan that Bonn will deploy the new U.S. medium-range missiles under any circumstances, no matter how the other Western European countries will decide on the deployment of these missiles. Vladimir Petrov comments:

Strictly speaking, the FRG shouldn't care whether it is the only West European country on whose territory U.S. missiles are to be deployed or whether they will also be deployed in other countries. It is assumed within NATO that the largest number of these missiles will be deployed on West German soil. If these missiles were really to be deployed, the Federal Republic in any case will be the focus of a counterstrike and will at any rate be in the epicenter of a limited nuclear war that the transatlantic strategists want to launch in Europe. That is an undisputed fact.

Yet, viewed politically, Mr Kohl's recent pledge -- if he really made it to Reagan during the recent meeting of the two statesmen -- is of serious importance, because in the other West European countries which are to be turned in to U.S. missile launching sites opposition to the Washington missile strategists is growing noticeably. This is the case not only in broad sections of the people but also in the highest political quarters.

In the Netherlands, Italy and some other countries, people much rather hope for a success of the Geneva negotiations on nuclear weapons in Euorpe, all the more so since as a result of the new Soviet proposals on these weapons as well as on strategic nuclear armaments the prospects for a mutually acceptable agreement have improved. In view of this fact a lone action by the FRG could have disastrous consequences regarding its own security an doubtlessly would amount to a stab in the back of its European NATO partners.

At the time when the decision on the U.S. missiles was to be enforced within NATO, Bonn played the role of harbinger. This circumstance by no means has enhanced the Federal Republic's prestige in West Euorpe. This is evidenced by the recent event. Another such maneuver at the present stage would only aggravate tensions between the Federal Republic and its Western neighbors.

The FRG's eastern neighbors, however, would have to reconsider what is really behind Bonn's assertions about its having an interest in peace and detente. By the way, Bonn was trying to hurriedly deny the British news agency report on a secret agreement between Kohl and Reagan. West German Government spokesmen have stated that nothing has changed in Kohl's earlier attitude and that if no other European NATO country deploys the U.S. missiles the FRG will not do that either. However, judging by West European press commentaries, such statements are being assessed with considerable suspicion. The well-founded skepticism observers show about Bonn's stance is growing due to the feverish preparation of launching pads for the U.S. missiles that the Hamburg weekly STERN reported again recently.

SPD CONGRESS OPENS 21 JAN IN DORTMUND, FRG

Draft Election Program Adopted

LD220442 Moscow TASS in English 1109 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Dortmund, January 21 TASS -- a congress of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SDPG) opened in Dortmund today to discuss matters of the party's preparation for the forthcoming elections to the Bundestag on March 6.

Adoption of an election programme of the Social Democrats is the principal item on the agenda. A report at the congress will be delivered by Hans-Jochen Vogel, SDPG candidate for the post of the chancellor of the FRG.

The SDPG's draft programms expresses serious concern over the growing aggravation of the international situation and the intensifying arms race which is fraught with a serious threat to peace. The draft programme points out that more and more people in the FRG come to realise that there is no reasonable alternative to the policy of detente and active ensurance of peace. The document expresses the SDPG's point of view on ways to curb the race of nuclear-missile armaments. It is emphasized that to preserve peace is the supreme goal of the party. The SDPG comes out in favour of further development of the FRG's relations with the USSR and other socialist countries and, in particular, in favour of expansion of mutually beneficial trade-and-economic contacts with them.

SPD Position on Nuclear Arms

LD230326 Moscow TASS in English 2115 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Bonn January 22 TASS -- The election programme of the Social-Democratic Party of Germany (SPD), adopted at an SPD congress in Dortmund and published here, stresses the importance of the peace initiatives contained in the speeches by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Yuriy Andropov and the Political Declaration of the Warsaw Treaty member-states. The Soviet Union and the Warsaw Treaty member-states have made "a step in the right direction," and "it is necessary to use the chance to cut the number of missiles and conclude a treaty on non-use of force in relations between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty," the document says.

The programme points out that the talks on disarmemnt, specifically on the reduction of nuclear armaments in Europe, "should cover all nuclear weapons stationed in Europe and aimed at Europe." "Wherever the point at issue is East-West balance, the document stresses, "all nuclear weapons must be taken into account, including French and British." The SPD points out that the talks should "make excessive the deployment of new American medium-range nuclear weapons." "At that, there should be no automatism in stationing these weapons," the programme indicates. [sentence as heard]

"Nuclear disarmament," the document says, "should be supplemented by talks on conventional weapons, especially on the reduction of the numerical strength of troops in central Europe."

The programme says: We are still opposed to the neutron weapons and demand their world-wide prohibition. We demand the termination of all nuclear weapons tests and conclusion of an appropriate agreement on the termination of such tests. We reject the production and stockpiling of germ and chemical warfare agents in the Federal Republic of Germany and will take measures so that the stockpiles of toxic gases, now based in the FRG, be removed. We will not agree to the storing of such warfare agents in the future. We demand elimination of such weapons throughout the world.

GENSCHER ON SPD POSITION ON SOVIET MISSILES

LD221128 Hamburg DPA in German 1110 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Mainz, 22 Jan (DPA) -- In the opinions of Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (FDP) the SPD appears to be resigned to the upkeep of "a great destructive potential on the eastern side." Such a course jeopardizes the outcome of negotiations in Geneva, Genscher emphasized at an extraordinary regional party conference of the Rhineland Palatinate FDP in Mainz on Saturday. But the objective has to be total renunciation of medium-range missiles on both sides, the FDP chairman said. Any proposal by the Soviet Union would be carefully examined. Should the Soviet Union reduce her medium-range missiles then the West in turn would deploy fewer missiles.

SPAIN'S GONZALEZ ON NUCLEAR ARMS, ECONOMIC ISSUES

LD221430 Moscow TASS in English 1236 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Madrid January 22 TASS -- Speaking on national television, Felipe Gonzalez, chairman of the Spanish Government, emphasised that he is a firm supporter of turning the whole of Europe into a nuclear-weapons-free zone and a vigorous opponent of the deployment of nuclear weapons in Spain. Answering the T.V. program host's question about his attitude to the saying "If you want peace, prepare for war", Felipe Gonzalez said: "I would prefer to put this in a different way: If you want peace, fight for peace."

The head of the Spanish Government emphasised that it is essential to exert big efforts to enhance peace. The struggle for peace is the struggle for public opinion which can remove the threat of war.

Touching on other aspects of the Socialist government's foreign policy, Felipe Gonzalez confirmed the intention to make Spain a member of the European Economic Community, stressing: "We should do this preserving dignity and taking into account Spain's interests."

Analysing the formidable social and economic problems inherited by the Spanish Socialist Workers Party from the former Centrist Government, he declared that the priority task is to combat unemployment. The Socialist Party's election promise to open an additional 800,000 jobs within the next four years is still valid. At the same time Felipe Gonzalez admitted that there are no magic means of overcoming the grave economic crisis gripping Spain.

UPCOMING NATO MANEUVERS IN NORWAY NOTED

LD221000 Moscow in Finnish to Finland 1630 GMT 18 Jan 83

[PRAVDA correspondent Mikhail Kositkov Oslo dispatch]

[Text] The New Year brings new military maneuvers to Norway. They will be organized both on a (?national scale) and within the framework of NATO. A total of 20,000 soldiers will take part in the maneuvers. The (?biggest) exercise will be the "Cold Winter 83" maneuvers in northern Norway in which 12,000 men will take part, among them marines from the United States, Britain and Canada. It is reported that an important exercise area will be the central part of Norway, Trondelag. It is there that stores are being built with feverish urgency and heavy American equipment is being transported there. This year all parts of the country will be used in one way or another as exercise fields for the tactical attack operations of Norwegian and NATO units.

The strength and scope of such militarist games have grown in the last few years in the sense that Norway is becoming NATO's permanent training area. FRIHETEN, the Communist Party organ, notes the danger caused to Norway's national interests if it continues to give way to the aggressive U.S. policy when it forces the role of armor bearer on Norway.

NORWEGIAN LABOR PARTY DENOUNCES U.S. ARMS POLICY

LD220038 Moscow TASS in English 2108 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Oslo January 21 TASS -- The country's major opposition party -- the Norwegian Labour Party (NLP) -- denounces the U.S. position at the Soviet-U.S. talks at Geneva and may withdraw its previously expressed support for NATO's missile-nuclear decisions. This is said today by the party's printed organ, the newspaper ARBEIDERBLADET.

Referring to the opinion expressed by many prominent NLP representatives, the newspaper says that they reject the so-called "zero option" which is regarded by the U.S. representatives as the basis for their position at the talks.

At present, increasingly large numbers of NLP members consider that a freeze ought to be imposed on the nuclear forces at their present level, which will create a more favourable atmosphere at the negotiations and increase the chances for their successful completion, the newspaper says.

U.S. PLANS FOR MILITARY BASES IN GREECE DISCUSSED

Talks Resume on Athens Base

LD212002 Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Greece and the United States have resumed their talks in Athens on the issue of the status of the American bases and other military facilities in Greece. Here's a commentary from Viktor Olin of our staff:

The agreement on the United States' bases in Greece concluded in the 1950's expired several years ago. Nevertheless, the United States has continued to use the bases intensively. The aim of the United States at the Athens talks is to give this accomplished fact a legal cover. Washington has made it clear that it regards its bases in Greece as important strategic footholds in a region located in the vicinity of the oil rich Middle Eastern and Gulf states.

The details of Washington's plans with regard to its bases in Greece, contained in the Pentagon's classified fiscal defense guidance fo the years of 1984-1988, have been leaked to the press. The document describes the principles of strategic planning for the immediate future. A memorandum signed by Defense Secretary Weinberger, accompanying the document, sanctions armed United States interference in any part of the world on the pretext of the defense of the so-called vital interests of the United States. And in this document, United States troops can invade and occupy a country, or a group of countries, without their consent even if the countries in question are allies of the United States.

The Pentagon has reserved Greece the role of a support facility for the Rapid Deployment Force, set up for operations in the Middle East and the Gulf. Greece's troops, incorporated into NATO's military wing, will have to replace the American Forces in southern Europe. The American bases in Greece are to be used to support the Rapid Deployment Force. The Pentagon's classified paper accounts for local United States-led operations deteriorating into a global conflict on the assumption that the United States cannot only take part in an exchange of nuclear strikes, but also win it. America's allies and aggressive alliances are reserved the role of executors of Washington's orders with no right to question these orders. The assumption is that millions of Greeks, Turks, Arabs and people of other nationalities would willingly sacrifice their life to the so-called vital United States interests because the United States military bases make them the hostages of the United States.

Addressing a Bonn news conference several days ago, the Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko spoke of the gamblers and adventurists who are prepared to inflict a nuclear catastrophe on mankind for the sake of their ambitions. The Soviet foreign minister said that one has every reason to question their right to push whole nations into a precipice.

Plans To Store Nuclear Weapons

LD232258 Moscow TASS in English 2147 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Athens, January 23 TASS -- About 2,000 demonstrators gathered today near Ellinikon, U.S. Air Force base situated not far from the capital of Greece, to express protest against the militarist policy of the United States which establishes its military bases in Greece.

The demonstrators who gathered at the initiative of Greece's Committee for Internatioal Detente and Peace demanded that the U.S. military immediately dismantle and all their so-called "strongholds" in Greece which create a direct threat to the country's security.

There are more than 20 U.S. bases and strongholds on Greek territory at present. The Pentagon is going to use one of its naval bases in Greece to store nuclear weapons. A document circulated here by Greece's Committee for International Detente and Peace stresses "that only a concerted action of peaceful forces of Greece for the dismantling of U.S. military bases can save the Greek people from a possible nuclear holocaust toward which the United States is pushing the country."

Increased Military Activity Protested

LD240954 Moscow TASS in English 0918 GMT 24 Jan 83

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Moscow, January 24 TASS -- The newspaper PRAVDA is commenting on the protest declared by the Foreign Ministry of Greece to the U.S. Administration in connection with the unlawful landings of U.S. aircraft at the base in Soudha (Crete), which were made more than once without preliminary permission from the Greek side.

"In violation of Greece's sovereign rights and disregarding the repeated warnings from its government," the newspaper PRAVDA points out, "the United States has sharply intensified the activities of the U.S. military bases on Greece's territory. The Pentagon even disregards the provisions of the existing agreement on the bases, which operate as temporary ones.

Four big American bases and tens of other military facilities of the USA and NATO, including the missile range in Crete and the main east-Mediterranean base of the Sixth Fleet in Soudha, have, in fact, from the very start of that foreign presence become for Greece a Pentagon "Pandora's box". It is more than once in the post-war years that the militaristic presence of the USA has been a source of grave troubles and trials for that country, including the seven-year-rule of the military-fascist regime of "black colonels", who came to power under NATO's "Prometheus" plan.

"Presently, the Washington administration," the commentary goes on to say, "wishes to use the bases in Greece, its air space and territorial waters for sending military equipment and contingents of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force to the eastern Mediterranean. The ships of the Sixth Fleet as before start on their cruises from the islands of Greece on their way to the shores of the Middle East for a 'show of force' and support for the Israeli aggressors. Hanging over Greece, contrary to its will and the wish to develop goodneighborly relations in the Mediterranean and the Balkans, including the traditional friendly relations with the Arab countries, is the threat of being drawn into the whirlwind of Washington's adventures. Lying on the bottom of the 'Pandora's box' is also the nuclear threat; the stockpiling on that country's territory of American nuclear weapons together with the delivery vehicles.

Therefore, one can understand the striving of Athens to keep under its control the American and NATO bases, which are the most dangerous aspect of Greece's membership in NATO."

"Persistent demands for the country's withdrawal from NATO and for dismantling foreign military bases are voiced in the course of powerful mass actions and demonstrations in defence of peace, against the threat of nuclear war," the newspaper PRAVDA writes in conclusion.

These demands have become a national watchword in the struggle for a democratic renewal and the country's peaceful future."

POLL SHOWS BRITONS OPPOSE U.S. MISSILE PLANS

LD240004 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2230 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] The majority of British people are against the deployment of new U.S. medium-range missiles on the territory of the country. This has been demonstrated by the results of a public opinion poll which was conducted by a British newspaper THE SUNDAY TIMES. According to the newspaper a total of 54 percent of the British population opposes nuclear missiles and NATO's plans. A considerable number of those who participated in the poll spoke in favor of a reduction of British nuclear arsenals.

SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDIUM GREETS SWISS PRESIDENT

LD221528 Moscow TASS in English 1444 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow, January 21 TASS -- The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has sent a telegram to President Pierre Aubert of the Swiss Confederation, in which it congratulated him on his election to the post and conveyed to the Federal Council and the Swiss people the best wishes of peace and well-being.

In his reply telegram Pierre Aubert expressed sincere gratitude for the congratulations and wished prosperity to the Soviet people.

BRIEFS

TRADE WITH FINLAND -- Helsinki January 14 TASS -- TASS correspondent Raivo Oyasaar reports: Border trade is an important aspect of the constantly developing Soviet-Finnish commercial and economic ties. This kind of trade is successfully conducted for 25 years now. Within a quarter of the century its volume increased nearly 200 fold to reach about 747 million Finnish marks, chairman of the Finnish part of the standing inter-governmental Soviet-Finnish Commission for Economic Cooperation Ahti Karjalainen told a TASS correspondent. It is important that it provides an opportunity for many medium and small Finnish firms to take part in the whole range of economic relations of the two countries. Over 500 Finnish firms now participate in this trade between a socialist and a capitalist country, the trade that is unique in its way. The border trade implemented on the basis of annual agreements promotes specialization and enables them to plan production. It also helps solve problems of employment. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1855 GMT 14 Jan 83 LD]

AMBASSADOR TO FINLAND -- The president of Finland, Dr Mauno Koivisto, received the GDR ambassador to Finland, Prof Stefan Doernberg, today for the presentation of his letter of accreditation. [Excerpt] [East Berlin Voice of GDR Domestic Service in German 1300 GMT 22 Jan 83 LD]

DANISH PEACE DELEGATION -- Moscow January 10 TASS -- Georgiy Zhukov, member of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet and chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee, has met in Moscow today a delegation of the organization "No to Nuclear Weapons" of Denmark led by U. Weber, head of the international liaison group of that organization. A friendly conversation took place. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1344 GMT 10 Jan 83 LD]

SOVIET DELEGATION CONTINUES VISIT TO LEBANON

Meeting With Al-Wazzan

NC220932 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan was briefed on the Soviet stand vis-a-vis Lebanon when he received the visiting Soviet delegation at 0930 today for 45 minutes.

Mukhamed Asimov, the leader of the delegation and member of the Soviet parliament, [title as heard] said: Prime Minister Al-Wazzan briefed us on the situation in the country. We communicated to him the Soviet Union's stand in support of the Lebanese people's struggle to end the occupation and to bring about the withdrawal of the occupying forces from Lebanon. We further acquainted him with the contents of the Warsaw Pact statement and the appeal addressed by the Soviet parliament to the world governments and parliaments.

The Soviet delegation then visited Munir Abu Fadil, the deputy speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, who had earlier met with the visiting Chinese delegation.

Asimov Remarks on Meeting

NC221830 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Following the meeting between Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and the Soviet delegation today, head of the delegation Asimov said in reply to a question that the purpose of the visit is to learn the situation and express the firm Soviet stand, which calls for ending the occupation and for the unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon and which supports Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

In reply to another question, Asimov explained that the delegation represents social quarters and that it does not carry a message from Soviet leaders to Lebanese officials and is not charged with an official mission. Concluding, Asimov said: We informed Prime Minister Al-Wazzan of the steps the Soviet Union is taking to avoid the danger of the eruption of a new nuclear war and in support of the cause of peace in the world in general.

The Soviet delegation then visited Munir Abu Fadil, deputy speaker of the Chamber of Deputies.

Asimov Press Statement

NC240659 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Mukhamed Asimov, leader of the Soviet delegation which is currently visiting Lebanon, emphasized in a press statement that the continuation of the current negotiations between Lebanon and Israel will help the United States and Israel to consolidate their presence and implement their plans. Asimov said: The U.S. fleet close to the Lebanese coast came to impose the negotiations on Lebanon. Is it then possible to believe the U.S. intentions toward the Lebanese people when such fleets are in Lebanese waters?

Asimov expressed his opinion that the Middle East problem is interlinked and that the Lebanese question cannot be separated from it. He pointed out that Lebanon must adhere to the Security Council's resolutions, particularly Resolutions 508 and 509, which demand Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

AFP Report on Visit

NC221656 Paris AFP in English 1640 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Beirut, Jan 22 (AFP) -- The Soviet Union did not enter last summer's Israeli-Lebanese war because such an intervention would have brought on a nuclear war, a Soviet official said here today.

"Our direct intervention would have further complicated the situation in Lebanon..." and "...would have probably brought on a nuclear war," said Mukhamed Asimov, Supreme Soviet member [title as received], quoted by the official Lebanese news agency.

Mr Asimov, here at the head of a delegation representing the "Soviet Committee for Peace and Solidarity," made the statement in response to a reporter's question after a meeting with Lebanese parliament Vice President Munir Abu Fadil.

He said Moscow was calling for "a halt to aggression (against Lebanon) as well as an end to the (Israeli) occupation and an unconditional Israeli withdrawal (?from) Lebanese territory."

DETAILS OF ANDROPOV-'ARAFAT TALKS REPORTED

JN211836 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1745 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris carried within "It Happened Tomorrow" program, date not given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] Syrian-Palestinian differences occupied an important part of the talks held in Moscow recently between Yasir 'Arafat and Yuriy Andropov. 'Arafat asked Soviet leaders to rearm the Palestinian forces, saying that some arms had not reached them because they were confiscated. Andropov answered by saying that that was the first time the Palestinian resistance had asked the USSR to provide arms since the Beirut battle and this needed political approval by the Soviet Foreign Ministry before being implemented by the Soviet Defense Ministry. Andropov added: Soviet arms will be shipped to Syria and therefore you have to coordinate with Syria. Here 'Arafat requested the Soviet leader to help in coordinating this. Andropov answered: We will help you, but it is up to you to make the bigger effort. Andropov warned 'Arafat and the Palestinian delegation saying verbatim: You must coordinate with Syria if you want to remain alive. Abu 'Ammar understood that the Soviet Union did not want to be involved in the Syrian-Palestinian differences.

Naturally, the talks dealt with Palestinian relations with Jordan. After listening to 'Arafat's explanation, Andropov showed understanding with reservation, meaning that a confederation with Jordan may come following the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and on the basis of individual choice [al-khayar al-fardi]. During the talks, Andropov said verbatim: You must endeavor to keep Jordan away from President Reagan's project as you did in 1978 when you succeeded in keeping Jordan out of the Camp David deal.

USSR SOLIDARITY DELEGATION MEETS WITH PLO OFFICIALS

LD230356 Moscow TASS in English 1430 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus January 22 TASS -- Representatives of the Palestinian Peace and Solidarity Committee have met in the Syrian capital with a delegation from the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee led by the committee's Chairman M.A. Ibragimov. 'Abd al-Mushin Abu Mayzar, member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, expressed in the course of the conversation cordial gratitude to the Soviet Union for aid and support it renders to the Palestinian people in their just struggle. He stressed that the Arab people of Palestine will continue their just struggle for the exercise of their legitimate national right.

TASS: ISRAELI PEACE ADVOCATES MEET WITH 'ARAFAT

LD221117 Moscow TASS in English 1044 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Paris January 22 TASS -- Following a meeting of Yasir 'Arafat with representatives of the Israeli council for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians, reported by the WAFA news agency on Friday, the newspaper LIBERATION carries today an interview with Matityahu Peled, chairman of that council and one of the participants in the meeting with the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Answering questions from the French newspaper's correspondent, M. Peled, a retired general, stressed, in particular, that the members of his organization agreed with the idea to establish a Palestinian state side by side with the State of Israel and that they recognized the national rights of the Palestinian people. According to him, a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat was necessary to demonstrate to the Israeli public the possibility of direct talks with the PLO.

TASS REPORTS ON ANATOLIY GROMYKO'S VISIT TO EGYPT

LD221400 Moscow TASS in English 1300 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Cairo January 22 TASS -- Anatoliy Gromyko corresponding member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, director of the Institute for Africa Studies under the Soviet Academy of Sciences, was staying here at the invitation of the Egyptian side.

He made a report at the diplomatic institute of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry on "Soviet Peace Policy and Africa", elucidating the Soviet Union's stand on socio-economic and political problems of the African Continent and Soviet-Egyptian relations.

The Soviet scientist took part in a debate organised by the centre for political and strategic studies of the newspaper [word indistinct]. Discussed during the course of meetings and conversations were also questions of developing Soviet-Egyptian scientific ties.

EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S INTERVIEW ASSESSED

LD231159 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 22 Jan 83

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program presented by Aleksandr Timoshkin]

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali gave an interview to the Cairo weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR in which he presented his stance on some aspects of the emerging situation in the Middle East in a way that arouses astonishment, to say the least. Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali claimed, for example, that Syria is coordinating its efforts with those of Israel with the aim of dividing Lebanon. The Egyptian minister at the same time expressed his confidence that the United States will exert its utmost efforts to remove the Israeli forces from Lebanon.

It is difficult for anyone to doubt the Egyptian foreign minister's knowledge of the real situation which emerged in and around Lebanon. I wonder what prompted him to turn everything upside down?

There is every reason to assume that the Egyptian minister, in his astonishing statements, intended to appease the United States, attributing to it intentions toward Lebanon which are not in keeping with Washington's schemes to transform this country into an American bridgehead in the Middle East. It is obvious that the Egyptian minister, who admits that Israel has no desire to evacuate Lebanon and that it seeks to divide this country, is trying to present himself as interested in the destiny of this sovereign state.

Regarding the accusations against Syria -- that the latter is striving with Israel to divide Lebanon -- we see nothing in them but an expression of open hostility toward the steadfastness of the Syrian stand and its continued active resistance against the Israeli aggressor.

Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali himself urges his country to cooperate with Israel. For example, the Egyptian minister, in his interview with the AL-MUSAWWAR correspondent, stated that the Israelis have no grounds for complaint against the Egyptian side, as far as the latter's implementation of the provisions of the treaty with Tel Aviv is concerned.

In addition to that, Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali boasted that Cairo still adheres strictly tall the provisions of the treaty. Furthermore, it sends oil to Israel, a matter which is not stipulated in the treaty. Bear in mind that the Egyptian oil is used by the Zionists to continue their aggression against Lebanon and to prepare for a vicious assault on Syria.

It is impossible for the Egyptian foreign minister to be unaware of all this. What adds peculiarity to all this is his aforementioned astonishing statements.

TASS REPORTS ISRAELI-SYRIAN CLASHES IN AL-BIQA'

LD211448 Moscow TASS in English 1306 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Beirut January 21 TASS -- The situation in the Al-Biqa' Valley has been aggravated again as a consequence of the clashes provoked by the Israeli Army with Syrian troops, participation in the inter-Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon. The invaders are bringing fresh reinforcements to the frontline. The newspaper AL-LIWA' reports the installation of missile launchers at the Israeli positions near Jabal al-Baruk. Additional mortar batteries, tanks and other combat technology are deployed at other sections of the front.

The invaders are carrying out incessant reprisals against the civilian population of Lebanon and mount round-ups, searches and massive arrests. Yesterday they combed the area near the Beirut-Damascus international highway. Innocent people were seized and imprisoned.

In this aggravated situation another round of talks between Lebanon and Israel with the participation of a U.S. delegation yesterday brought no results. In response to a plan for the pullout of Israeli troops from Lebanese territory tabled by the Lebanese side, Tel Aviv put forward an ultimatum demanding the conclusion of an agreement on "security" matters in the south of the country.

This demand was strongly rejected by the Lebanese delegation as inadmissible intervention in the internal affairs of Lebanon because it calls for a military presence of the invaders in the south, gives the invaders' puppet, traitorious Major Haddad, a "vital" role in that part of the country and thus grossly impinges on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Lebanese state.

TIMOSHKIN ON U.S. PERSIAN GULF NUCLEAR STRATEGY

LD220102 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Aleksey Timoshkin commentary]

[Text] UPI has described as bloodcurdling the secret Pentagon document which recommends that the United States prepare to wage an extended nuclear war against the USSR. Indeed, this plan makes every normal person tremble with fear. This is because nobody will be saved if the Pentagon wages such a nuclear war.

The Pentagon has clearly and openly stated in this document that the United States intends to wage a nuclear war on several fronts, and specifically mentioned the oil-wealthy Gulf and the Arab countries as one of these fronts. The United States has for quite some time declared this region as one of its vital interests. The Pentagon is preparing plans for wide-scale military operations in the Gulf region and for landing forces there without waiting for an invitation from the Americans' allies, the petroleum countries. It suffices for the Pentagon to feel that a danger has been threatening U.S. access to the Gulf oil. All this means that the Gulf countries will be dragged against their will into a devastating nuclear war according to the Pentagon's wishes.

The secret Pentagon plan to wage a victorious nuclear war covers the next 5 years. It provides for large-scale programs of war preparations. The most important is the one to find a way for the United States to evade a devastating counterblow. It is for this reason that the Pentagon has been drawing up plans to amass troops all over the world, including in the Arab world. For example, American military bases are being built in Oman. The Americans have been receiving military facilities in Egypt. This is also the reason that the Pentagon is using all sorts of promises in an effort to draw the other Arab countries into its aggressive adventures.

The secret Pentagon plans have yet another covert objective: to force some Arab countries, through nuclear intimidation, into joining, in one form or another, the strategic, aggressive bandwagon of American imperialism. In this regard, gentlemen, I wish to recall that Washington has for some time been pushing the Arab Gulf countries to establish a closed political military bloc under U.S. domination. Washington wants to use this bloc to deepen the inter-Arab rift and force the Arabs to divide into camps that will simplify the establishment of U.S. neo-imperialist control over the Middle East. With the existence of an Arab bloc under U.S. control, it would be easier for the American military to achieve their ambition of dominating the world, because this will give them Arab flesh for their guns in addition to the Arab petroleum.

I am not exaggerating. I am only broadly describing the basic lines of the Pentagon's secret plan to wage a large-scale nuclear conflict. The plan is 136 pages long. It contains numerous details which prove that the U.S. imperialists intend to sacrifice the lives of millions of other people as well as the existence of many peoples for the sake of one thing only: dominating almost the whole world, primarily the Arab countries.

Undoubtedly the reaction of the Arab countries and peoples to these barbaric, inhaumane and aggressive plans of American imperialism will be adequate, particularly as a considerable number of state officials in the Arab countries and the Arab national forces have been demanding with growing determination that their relations with the United States be reviewed. I do not believe that the Arabs will agree to become allies of the imperialists, who are assigning them a sacrificial role in a world nuclear conflict. Thank you.

MOSCOW COMMENTARY ON QUALITY OF SOVIET WEAPONS

LD211916 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Andrey Nikolayev commentary: "In Whose Interest Are the Fabrications About the Combat Qualities of Soviet Weapons?"]

[Text] In connection with the Israeli aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, the press in the United States, Israel and elsewhere has been carrying allegations to the effect that the weapons which Washington exports to Israel and those produced by Israel itself have established their superiority over the Soviet weapons with which the Lebanese and the Palestinians were armed. What is the truth?

First of all, the attack in Lebanon was carried out by a regular army which is armed with the most modern weapons and which was in full control of Lebanese airspace. This army was confronted by Palestinian formations and the Lebanese national forces which had no heavy weapons, aircraft or [word indistinct] antiaircraft weapons. But despite all this, the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, as far as the Zionists were concerned, was not the picnic Begin and Sharon believe.

The Israeli army sustained more losses in men and equipment than ever before -- even more than when it was confronted by regular Arab armies. The aggressors' large army was stopped at the walls of Beirut and, despite all its efforts and the use of internationally banned genocidal weapons, for 80 days this army failed to do anything against the heroes defending the Lebanese capital. Itachieved its objective only after the armed detachments of the joint forces had left Beirut.

What weapons did the Beirut defenders use? Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasi 'Arafat said at a press conference in Moscow: I fought with Soviet weapons and I actually witnessed their great efficiency.

As to Abu 'Ali Nasir, member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Military Committee, he told a NOVOYE VREMYA correspondent how one of his group's fighters immobilized six Israeli tanks by bombarding them with Soviet handgrenades. Is this not high praise for Soviet weapons?

Let us hear what Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas said in a statement to the Saudi AL-MAJALLAH magazine. The minister said that when the Israelis tried to mount a tank attack against Syrian units in the Al-Biqa' Valley, the Syrians used Soviet T-72 tanks, which Mustafa Talas said are the best tanks in the world. The outcome of this operation was that Syrian tank crews destroyed 30 enemy tanks within 30 minutes.

King Husayn of Jordan, Husayn ibn Talal, clearly expressed his views when he said that the Soviet Union assists the Arabs by strengthening their military power, and that it provides them with the most modern weapons and equipment.

What is interesting is that even THE NEW YORK TIMES asked: Is it not dangerous to exaggerate the worth of your own weapons and to belittle the Soviet weapons?

Why is it, then, that Washington embarked on this false propaganda campaign against these weapons? There are two reasons: economic and political. As UPI reported on 9 January, the imports of U.S. arms into other countries tripled last year and enabled the monopolies producing these weapons to make $19.5 billion in profits, bearing in mind the fact that one-half of this (?concerns) the Middle East and South Asia. To put it briefly, there is a steady flow of Arab petrodollars into the coffers of U.S. bankers. To ensure that this flow continues, the propaganda media have been asked to place advertisements about U.S. weapons.

The political reason is quite obvious. It is nothing but another absurd attempt to harm the reputation of the Soviet Union in the eyes of the Arabs and to make them believe that they can rely only on Washington. This being the case, no objections are allowed to the expanding U.S. military presence in Sinai and Lebanon today, and in the Gulf and Maghreb countries, and the Indian Ocean region and so forth tomorrow.

The idea, as you observe, is quite far-reaching. But as is often the case with U.S. propaganda, the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing. One tho one hand, there is an outcry about the inefficiency of the Soviet weapons, and on the other hand the fear of Soviet military superiority is exaggerated, there are frightened cries about the danger to the United States and Israel by the increase in the defensive power of a number of the Arab countries with Soviet help. What are we to believe? It seems that one must believe the facts, which contradict Washington's fabrications.

'FORCES OF IMPERIALISM' PRESSURE GHANAIAN REGIME

Counterrevolutionary Coup Planned

LD231208 Moscow TASS in English 1147 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Accra January 23 TASS -- The forces of imperialism and reaction are preparing a counter-revolutionary coup in Ghana, which they are going to stage by resorting to the "services" of foreign mercenaries.

The GHANAIAN TIMES newspaper based in Accra reported that a large group of hired bandits had left London's Heathrow Airport last week and was now in transit in Togo waiting for the arrival of another group of "soldiers of fortune" raised in Britain. According to the plotter's plan, the mercenaries are to make an incursion into Ghana and topple the Ghanaian Government of the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC).

According to the newspaper, the mercenaries are armed with mortars, heavy machine-guns and small arms. All of them are former members of the British Special Airborne Service (SAS). The cutthroats had been recruited, the GHANAIAN TIMES said, by Ghanaian counter-revolutionaries in direct cooperation with the Israeli secret service Mossad, which had been courting the Ghanian reactionary emigres together with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

In the face of the mercenaries' possible thrust into Ghanaian territory, Brigadier General A. Quanoo, commander of the People's Army of Ghana, called on the country's population to heighten vigilance. He assured the people that the national Armed Forces were ready to give a decisive rebuff to the aggressor.

New York January 23 TASS -- According to ASSOCIATED PRESS, an official spokesman for the British Foreign Office delivered comment on the GHANAIAN TIMES' report and said that he knew nothing about the reported dispatch of British mercenaries.

CIA 'Stepping Up' Subversion

LD171854 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in English to Africa 1500 GMT 17 Jan 83

[Text] The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is stepping up its subversive activities against Ghana. (?The country's public) pays attention in particular to the intensified brainwashing of some representatives of the Ghanaian Army and of a number of (?civil services) by the employees of the American institutions in Accra. Observers assume in this connection that in spite of the failure of the attempt of a coup last year by the republic's (?Armed) Forces, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency does not give up (?its) efforts to again instigate the forces of reaction to topple the Jerry Rawlings progressive regime, to bring the country under the American dictate.

U.S.-HONDURAN JOINT MILITARY MANEUVERS CRITICIZED

PY211404 Moscow in Spanish to Cuba 0100 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Vyacheslav Rostovtsev commentary]

[Text] Washington has reported that the joint [U.S.-Honduran] military maneuvers scheduled to be carried out are a routine and inoffensive event which was planned a long time ago. Although it is true that the maneuvers were planned a long time ago, why is it that they will be carried out precisely in Honduras and, more so, close to the Nicaraguan border?

If the maneuvers are a routine and inoffensive event, why were they cancelled on the occasion of President Reagan's trip to Latin America at the beginning of December 1982? It was said in Washington then that the maneuvers would create an unfavorable atmosphere for the President's visit, and that it would only heighten the Latin American people's certainty about the U.S. anti-Nicaraguan policy. In turn, this would cause international opinion to react toward and to condemn the policy implemented by Reagan's administration.

However, assurances can be given that people do not think differently now that they have learned about the intention to deploy military forces near Nicaragua. It is more and more evident that U.S. Government circles are resorting to an increasing number of new methods to step up the U.S. anti-Nicaraguan actions. The CIA began to carry out actions upon the implementation of economic pressure on Nicaragua through allocating $19 million to organize sabotage, provocations and terrorist actions in Nicaragua, and to train former Somozist guards. Florida was turned into a base to train counterrevolutionaries and Honduras was used as a staging area for military operations against Nicaragua. Over 500 armed actions, which cost the lives of many scores of Nicaraguan people, have been conducted from Honduras. The Pentagon is now also participating in the anti-Nicaraguan campaign. Honduran and U.S. units will participate in the maneuvers.

It is evident that through flaunting its military power the United States intends to intimidate, put pressure on and force the Nicaraguans to give up both their internal and foreign policies.

The Nicaraguan situation is becoming dangerous and tense according to the special meeting recently held in Managua by representatives of 85 nonaligned countries and of various international organizations. The document drawn up at this meeting condemns the threats and aggressive actions against Nicaragua and voices solidarity for the Nicaraguan people's struggle for independence and their right to self-determination. As a matter of fact, Nicaragua is currently in need of support and solidarity.

ANALYST ON U.S. ROLE IN EL SALVADOR VIOLENCE

LD230424 Moscow TASS in English 1302 GMT 23 Jan 83

["Democracy and Human Rights Washington-Style" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Nikolay Chigir writes: It had long been known that the Reagan administration wanted to "certify" in U.S. Congress "improvements in the observance of human rights in El Salvador" and under this fraudulent pretext to secure the legislators' "go-ahead" for further increases in military aid to the Salvadorean terrorist regime. It had been difficult to expect though that this would be done with such numbing cynicism and hypocrisy. The corresponding report sent by the Department of State to Congress was not only a model of unscrupulousness. It proved that juggling with facts, their distortion and simply lies in their pure form were and remain to be important instruments of U.S. foreign policy.

The State Department claimed that democracy in El Salvador had "struck deep roots" and that "progress" had been made there in ensuring human rights and liberties. It made those claims precisely at a time when a powerful movement protesting against the atrocities of the Salvadoran junta, of whose terror and violence as many as more than 40,000 people have now fallen victim, is mounting worldwide. During the just-ended international week of solidarity with the selfless struggle of the Salvadoran people against the bloody dictatorship new, incontrovertible facts and further, irrefutable evidence were made public proving that it is precisely in recent time that the Salvadoran punitive troops have escalated dramatically their operations, conducted under the supervision of U.S. "advisers," which in fact are mass slaughters of innocent people. Many dozens and even hundreds of Salvadorans are killed by the junta's cutthroats every day. More than 80 percent of the victims, according to the Salvadoran commission on human rights, are civilians, including children, women and old people.

Angrily denouncing the acts of banditry perpetrated by the pro-American regime, Rivera y Damas, archbishop of San Salvador, declared recently that the violence of the Salvadoran troops is spearheaded first of all against defenceless people.

The pro-American dictatorship's intention to use such weapons of mass annihilation as chemical warfare agents, which were supplied to it by the United States, signals the dangerous escalation of the already wild terror raging in El Salvador. It has become known that special units of the Salvadoran junta's army have already conducted secret maneuvers to practice the use of such weapons.

Seeking to keep the puppet regime of killers and tyrants in power and provide it with all-round backing, the Washington administration, as we see, goes to the length of openly distorting the true situation in El Salvador. It is even prepared not only to forgive but also to protect the murderers of U.S. citizens in El Salvador, in particular four American women missionaries, to this day none of those who took part in their murder has not even been tried, although it is known who they are, while the State Department is in essence expressing satisfaction with the progress of the investigation into that crime.

It is in this way that they in Washington understand the ideas of freedom, democracy and the ensurance of human rights, for a "peaceful competition" in which President Reagan called in his speech in the British Parliament last June when he announced his notorious "crusade against communism." As Washington's policy and actual deeds in El Salvador and Central America as a whole have demonstrated, the palm in such competitions is undoubtedly borne by the United States.

U.S., UK PLAN TO TURN FALKLANDS INTO NATO BASE

LD212036 Moscow TASS in English 1940 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow January 21 TASS -- TASS news analyst Leonid Ponomarev writes:

In London they are sounding false alarm over the "threat", which allegedly hangs over the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands. Prime Minister Thatcher stated in this connection that British contingents of troops and the garrison on the captured islands had been alerted, and threatened to give a befitting rebuff. She has been echoed by the newspaper DAILY TELEGRAPH, which demanded editorially to deal a crushing retaliatory strike. The newspaper FINANCIAL TIMES confidently, but triumphantly informs that the United States strictly warned Argentina against any new armed actions in the South Atlantic. All in all, in London they are sharpening swords and exciting themselves with bellicose cries.

A bout of South Atlantic military fever in London was triggered off by a provocative report of the American television company CBS that Argentina allegedly prepares to attack the islands. That fraud was picked up also by other mass media of the United States and Britain.

In Buenos Aires, an official representative of Argentina turned down those fabrications, describing them as a manouevre of British colonialists, undertaken to justify the stationing on the islands of several thousand British troops and military equipment. It is to be noted that in Britain itself many people do not believe in the far-fetched anti-Argentina version. The newspaper FINANCIAL TIMES admits that the Defence Ministry has no confirmation that Argentina builds up military preparations for operations against the Falkland Islands. The question is then why they in London, not without Washington's assistance, are fanning up hullabaloo over the non-existent danger.

Practice shows that the U.S. Administration and the London conservative government are guided in their policy by, and believe in, military-force approach to solution of the problem. To further such imperial policy globally they need military bases and strong-points, vast territories of other states to turn them into springboards of aggression.

During the Anglo-Argentine conflict last year, London and Washington closely coordinated their military efforts in the South Atlantic. That was not only evidence of the community of their imperialist aims, but also direct consequence of their partnership in the NATO aggressive bloc. Being not just parties to the militaristic North-Atlantic grouping, but its vanguard, the United States and Britain seek to broaden the zone of action of NATO from the North to the South Atlantic and even to other regions, resorting, in doing so, as was shown by the Anglo-Argentine conflict, to rough military force, to undisguised aggression. London and Washington now plan to deploy on the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands a NATO base with the United States to rule the roost there. By the way, Britain has already experience of "transferring" an island, which does not belong to it, for an American base -- the Diego Garcia island, from which native residents were evicted. The same lot is being prepared also for the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands.

LATVIAN FIRST SECRETARY MEETS PANAMA PARTY HEAD

LD231954 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 1730 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Ruben Dario Sousa, secretary general of the People's Party of Panama [PPP] Central Committee, arrived in Riga on 3 January. At Riga Airport he was met by Voss, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee; Laukman, chief of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee Foreign Relations Department; and Zile, administrator of affairs of the Communist Party of Latvia Central Committee.

The guest from Panama visited the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee office where he was received by Voss. In the discussion which took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere Voss informed him of the main directions of the organizational, ideological and political mass work of the Latvian Republic party organization at present, and he described the results of 1982 and the plans of 1983, the middle year of the 5-year period, and also the work in process of republican party organizations and labor collectives implementing the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the May and November 1982 plenums of the CPSU Central Committee.

Ruben Dario Sousa informed him about the main directions of the PPP's activity and about efforts which it is making in order to form a democratic national liberation front. Our immediate aim, the secretary general of the PPP Central Committee stressed, is to ensure that in the 1984 elections all revolutionary forces and followers of General Torrijos will win. He also pointed out that the PPP is a loyal friend of the Soviet Union and fully supports the CPSU's internal and foreign policies.

Comrades Anderson and Dmitriyev, and (Mineyev), an official of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, participated in the discussion.

STRUYEV RETIRES; NEW TRADE MINISTER NAMED

LD211733 Moscow TASS in English 1658 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow January 21 TASS -- The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has appointed Grigoriy Vashchenko to the post of minister of trade of the USSR.

Grigoriy Vashchenko was born in 1920. For many years he worked as an engineer at enterprises of the machine-building industry. He became a party functionary in 1958, served as first secretary of the Kharkov regional committee of the Communist Party of the Ukriane. In 1972 Grigoriy Vashchenko becamse first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukraine. He is a member of the CPSU Central Committee and a deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet

Aleksandr Struyev has been relieved of his duties of minister of trade of the USSR in connection with his retirement.

ARMENIAN SSR MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS DIES

GF221928 Yerevan SOVETAKAN AYASTAN in Armenian 16 Dec 82 p 3

[Excerpt] Tatevos Sergeyevich Minasyants died on 14 December 1982 at the age of 71. He was member of Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, deputy of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet, a famous engineer, the Armenian SSR minister of communications, and a member of the CPSU Central Committee since 1942.

GEORGIAN COURT ORDERS EXECUTION OF 'CRIMINAL'

LD221008 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0830 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] The Collegium on Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of the Georgian SSR in the city of Gori has sentenced (Guram Devadze) to the highest punishment: execution by firing squad. The court also pronounced his accomplices guilty of committing particularly dangerous crimes and sentenced them to various terms of imprisonment. (Devadze), who had two previous conviction, surrounded himself with people who did not want to work honestly, and together with them committed a series of plundering attacks. They stole cars, robbed citizens' apartments, and committed armed robberies. Much work has been done by the employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in order to identify all the members of this criminal group. The court pronounced them all guilty, and the sentence has been carried out.

GRISHIN ADDRESSES MOSCOW CPSU COMMITTEE MEETING

LD220050 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Jan 83

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Text] Today in Moscow a joint session took place of the Bureau of the Moscow City CPSU Committee, the Executive Committee of the Moscow Soviet, the Presidium of the Moscow City Trade Union Council and the Bureau of the Moscow City Komsomol Committee. The results of socialist competition of the working people of the city were summed up.

It was noted that all work of the working Moscow collectives is proceeding under the enormous influence of the decisions of the November 1982 plenum of the CPSU Central Committee.

The Muscovites launched a movement under the slogan: Honor and glory to labor, aimed at the achievement of high final results in work on the basis of full use of reserves, the raising of mutual demands and the creating of exemplary order in production. Many of the capital's workers are undertaking obligations to complete personal tasks of the year by 7 November.

Comrade Grishin, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Moscow City CPSU Committee, addressed the session.

GUEST VISITS STALIN MUSEUM IN GEORGIA

WA171110 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Dec 82 p 4

[TASS report: "Acquaintance With Georgia"]

[Excerpts] Tbilisi, 27 Dec -- E.A. Shevardnadze, candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, today received a party-state delegation from the Lao People's Democratic Republic headed by K. Phomvihan, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. On the same day the guest visited the Kalinin Kolkhoz in the village of Tkviavi, Gori Rayon, and toured the I.V. Stalin Home-Museum in Gori.

ANDROPOV AFFIRMS CHARGES AGAINST SHCHARANSKIY

LD240936 Paris Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Georges Marchais has written to Mr Yuriy Andropov in order to receive explanations about Anatoliy Schcharanskiy's internment. The secretary general of the PCF [French Communist Party] has received a reply from the Soviet head: Yuriy Andropov repeats the accusations of espionage leveled against Shcharanskiy, but he affirms that the dissident has been able to see his mother, that he has given up his hunger strike and that he is in good health.

1982 ECONOMIC PLAN SUCCESSES, FAILURES REPORTED

TASS Report

LD221440 Moscow TASS in English 1408 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS -- The country ensured in the past year, the year of the 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR, further rise in public production and people's well-being, says a report by the central board of statistics of the USSR, published today, on the results of the implementation of the USSR's State Plan of Economic and Social Development in 1982.

The national income grew by 2.6 percent against 1981. Its three quarters were used for consumption. Taking into account spending for housing and socio-culture construction, four fifths of the national income were channelled for raising living standards.

Industrial output grew by 2.8 percent against 1981, agricultural output by four percent.

Efficiency of production grew, higher worker productivity saved the labour of 2.7 million people, a great amount of raw materials, fuel, energy and other items.

At the same time, the report by the Soviet statistics board says, the growth rates of labour productivity lag behind the planned indicators, assignments for the saving of material resources, introduction of new equipment and technology are not fully implemented.

As in the previous years, complete employment of the workforce was ensured.

The USSR generated last year 1,366 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, produced 613 million tons of oil, 501 billion cubic metres of gas, 718 million tons of coal, melted 147 million tons of steel, produced 26.7 million tons of mineral fertilizers, and 124 million tons of cement.

Grain production noticeably increased compared with 1981, the state grain resources fully ensure the supply of bread and bakery products for the Soviet population. The USSR produced 9.3 million tons of raw cotton last year.

The USSR's foreign trade amounted to 119 billion roubles.

About 200 new state industrial enterprises were put into operation in 1982.

The report points out that last year the Soviet Union raised monthly wages and salaries, and payments to collective farmers. Measures were carried out to increase state aid to large families. About 10 million people improved their housing all over the country.

Unattained Targets

LD221444 Moscow World Service in English 1400 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Last year was marked by a stable economic development in the Soviet Union and by the growing prosperity of the entire population, says the central statistical board in Moscow. The country built an estimated 200 new industrial facilities and modernized old ones on a large scale. The industrial production increased on the whole by 2.8 percent, and in some industries even higher.

Production targets were exceeded in gas extraction, in coal mining, in the building of machine tools, instruments, means of automation, tractors and other farm equipment and in the consumer goods industry.

Meanwhile the only targets failed to be reached in production of ferrous metals, mineral fertilizers, cement, refrigerators, meat and butter. [sentence as heard]

Last year the country implemented an extensive social program and continued to maintain full employment. It raised the average monthly wages and farmers' incomes with the prices of the basic consumer goods, food and services remaining unchanged. The government spent four-fifths of the national revenues directly on further improving the people's well-being. It increased allocations for free education and health service, pensions, student grants, leisure and other social needs. An estimated 10 million Soviet people had moved into better homes.

CSA Chief Comments

LD221850 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Statement by Lev Markovich Volodarskiy, Chief of the USSR Central Statistical Administration: From the Vremya newscast]

[Text] The laconic language of figures and facts in the USSR Central Statistical Administration report testifies to the results of the creative labor of the Soviet people. The report shows that there has been a development of production in all branches of the national economy and that there is no area in the country where the construction of new enterprises and the reconstruction of existing ones is not being carried out on a large scale. National income is mounting, technology is progressing and the level of the people's well-being is rising.

The figures speak for themselves. During the year, industrial output rose by 2.8 percent. Some people might ask what this actually means. It means that the rise in industrial output in just 1 year was R20 billion. Incidently, production fell by a percent in the United States during the year. Our socialist industry provides the means of production for all branches of the national economy. It is important to note the fact that during the past year, output of consumer goods rose at an above-average rate.

Last year was exceptionally difficult for agriculture. Despite this, an increase was achieved in production of many agricultural crops and animal produce. The agricultural workers countered the difficulties with new large-scale measures to implement the decisions of the May 1982 plenum of the CPSU Central Committee on the food program. Production is mounting, we are already providing over 9 million tons of cotton annually. This is very important for all branches of the national economy.

Capital construction is taking place on an enormous scale. In 1982, about 200 large-scale state industrial enterprises were established. In just 1 year, basic assets worth over R138 billion began operations. This means that in 1 year, more basic assets began service than during the first 30 years of the Soviet state's existence. Enterprises, schools, hospitals, new railways and power stations began service. Many new things began service for our Soviet people.

Of course, there were also shortcomings in various branches of the national economy during 1982. Plans regarding particular types of output were unfulfilled. Deliveries were unfulfilled. Particular capacities were behind schedule in beginning service. The population's growing demand for particular types of industrial and food products was not fully satisfied.

At the November plenum of our party's Central Committee, Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, spoke of major problems in the development of our economy and of the problem of raising both state discipline and labor discipline. In the year of the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Union's existence, the activity of the Soviet people has increased.

We have started the 3d year of the 5-year plan and we are now implementing a program that provides for the fast growth of all branches of the economy on the basis of the decisions of the 26th Congress of the CPSU. One may be confident -- and the results of the past year testify to this -- that the working people of the Soviet Union are doing everything possible to implement the blueprints of our Leninist party.

CSA Deputy Chief Interviewed

LD221904 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 22 Jan 83

[D. Parshikov interview with Mikhail Antonovich Korolev, deputy chief of the USSR Central Statistical Administration -- live or recorded; date and place not given]

[Text] [Korolev] I would like to cite a general figure. Today the USSR has 271.2 million people. There are over 128 million workers, employees and kolkhoz members employed in social production. The results of the country's economic development are largely reflected in the national income which incorporates the growth in production. Last year its volume exceeded R500 billion, and that means that in the past 15 years the national income of our country has doubled. As usual, three-fourths of it was used for consumption, and taking into account the expenditure on housing and sociocultural construction, four-fifths of the national income went directly to the people's well-being -- that is some R400 billion.

At the present time the basic production assets of the national economy exceed R1,300 billion and they have grown as compared with 1981 by 6.7 percent, and, mind you, every 1 percent is more than R12 billion.

Very importantly -- and I would like to stress this in particular -- the growth of social production continues to be based on the further improvement of its efficiency. First, last year the rates of growth of the national income exceeded the growth of capital investments. Second, improved labor productivity secured a saving of labor amounting to 2.7 million people.

[Question] Could we please decipher this figure?

[Answer] It means that if labor productivity remained at the 1981 level, then the production of the volume of national income achieved in 1982 would have required the additional recruitment to material production of 2.7 million workers.

Now, continuing my reflections on efficiency, I will point out that R5 billion worth of raw and semifinished materials, fuel, energy and other labor materials have been saved. For comparison, to see how great this figure is, I will point out that these funds are sufficient for the construction of several industrial giants such as the Kama truck plant and Atommash.

It is known that in improving the efficiency of social production an important role belongs to scientific and technical progress. Here, too, quite a bit has been done. As an example I shall cite several figures. The implementation of 170 major scientific and technical programs has continued. Thanks to the introduction of the achievements of science and technology, 3,500 models of new types of machines, equipment, apparatus, instruments and means of automation have been created.

At the same time, the year's results also reflect the shortcomings existing in the national economy. (?Specific) appraisal was given to these at the November 1982 plenum of the CPSU Central Committee.

[Question] As you know, Mikhail Antonovich, the development of the economy of any country is to a significant degree determined by the results of industrial production. What are the year's results like in this respect?

[Answer] The year 1982 saw a continuation of the increase in the volume of production of industry. Its growth over the year amounted to R20 billion, or 2.8 percent. The whole volume of industrial output last year exceeded R730 billion. This is more than the output of industrial production in the entire Sixth 5-Year Plan. The scale of growth of our industry speaks for itself. At the same time, the total industrial output in the developed capitalist countries in 1982 fell by 3 percent according to preliminary estimates.

Industry, fulfilling the directions of the party, every year increases the output of consumer goods and improves their quality. The plan for their production was exceeded including for such types of production as nonwoven materials, sewn goods and hosiery, fish food products, confectionery, furniture, china and earthenware, majolica, crockery, timepieces, movie cameras, and many other goods.

But there were shortcomings in the development of industry. Production associations, enterprises and certain industries failed to fulfill their plans for the overall volume of output, growth of labor productivity and other figures. The national economy has a shortfall in a number of important types of industrial production. Enterprises of production associations of the Ministries of Heavy and Transport Machine Building, Petroleum Refining and the Petrochemical Industry, Electrical Equipment Industry and Light Industry did not entirely fulfill their contractual commitments to consumers.

[Question] An important event in the life of our country was the May plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Food Program which it approved. What are the results of the development of the agroindustrial complex in 1982.

[Answer] Agricultural workers in the complex weather conditions of last year, relying on an augmented material and technical base, achieved a growth of many types of agricultural produce. Overall, its volume amounted to R126 billion, or R5 billion more than in 1981, and over R2 billion more than the average annual level achieved in the preceding, 10th 5-Year Plan.

Last year's volume of produce is the second greatest in the entire history of our agricultural production. A little more was produced only in 1978. The harvest of grain, sunflowers, vegetables, fruit and grapes increased compared with 1981. In livestock raising production of milk increased by 1.2 million tons, eggs by 1.2 billion, and slightly more meat was produced. Very importantly, by the start of 1983 the herd of cattle had grown by 1.2 million and that of pigs by 3.2 million head. Undoubtedly, in the development of livestock raising there are certain positive results, but workers in this sector have nevertheless remained in arrears to the state. The plan for sales of milk, animals and poultry was not fulfilled. All this delays the fuller satisfaction of the population's requirements for livestock products.

In 1982 the goods turnover of all types of traffic amounted to 7,100 billion tons per km. Passenger turnover amounted to 941 billion passengers per km. These figures are higher than in 1981, but the work of transport — and particularly railways — still gives rise to serious complaint.

[Question] Mikhail Antonovich, the prospects of the development of the economy are to a significant degree determined by the situation in capital construction. What was new in this direction in 1982?

[Answer] A major construction program was implemented in the country. Some 200 major industrial enterprises went into operation. Altogether during the year basic assets valued at more than R138 billion were put into operation. That is 5 percent or R6 billion more than in 1981. Construction workers carried out large-scale modernization and technical refitting of existing enterprises. New projects have been put into operation in practically all sectors of the national economy, while the capital investments from all sources of finance exceeded R141 billion including some R45 billion for the development of the sectors of the aeroindustrial complex, and R37.4 billion were allocated directly to agriculture.

[Question] As we know, the aims of social production under socialism are the ever fuller satisfaction of the growing requirements of the population.

[Answer] Last year saw a continuation of the consistent implementation of the measures planned for the 11th 5-Year Plan for improving the material and cultural living standards of the Soviet people. The average monthly pay of workers and employees in the national economy increased over the year by 2.8 percent and amounted to R177 and 30 kopeks, and the remuneration of kolkhoz members increased by 4 percent. The higher rates of increase of the remuneration of kolkhoz members guarantees that their level of income continues to draw closer to the pay of workers and employees. A considerable addition to the income of Soviet people are the payments and privileges from the social consumption funds. Taking into account this substantial addition, the pay of workers and employees increased from R239 to R246 per month.

Tariff rates and the monthly pay of workers in the coal industry have been increased. In a number of industries the introduction of long-service bonus payments continued.

State aid to families with children has been strengthened. The satisfaction of the solvency [platezhsposobnyy] requirement of the population remains, as before, one of the most important tasks of the economy. In 1982 the retail trade turnover of sovkhoz, cooperative and kolkhoz trade exceeded R304 million. However, with the increase in trade turnover, the growing damands of the population for some food and industrial goods were still not fully met. The further improvement of the population's living conditions is one of the most important elements of our party's social policy. In 1982, 2 million well-appointed apartments were built with a total area of approximately 107 million square meters, from all sources of finance. This includes approximately 32 million square meters in rural areas. Living conditions were improved for approximately 10 million people. Towns and villages had their amenities improved. Public transportation received further development. Much attention was devoted to the people's education, to science, and to culture. On 1 January 1983 there were 152 million people in the country with higher and secondary education, completed or otherwise. Approximately 86 percent of the employed population had such education.

Such are the most general results of the economic and social development of the USSR in 1982.

CPSU DISCUSSES 'SHORTCOMINGS' IN POWER SUPPLIES

LD211828 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] A conference was held at the CPSU Central Committee today to discuss the problems of improving the supply of power to the national economy, ensuring the implementation of the plans for the extraction of fuels and the production of electricity. The introduction of new energy capacities into operation and a more rational use as well as saving of fuel and energy resources in the light of the tasks deriving from the speech by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Comrade Andropov at the CPSU Central November plenum.

The conference was addressed by Comrade Dolgikh, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The conference was attended by CPSU Central Committee Secretary Ryzhkov; Deputy Chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers Antonov, Baybakov, Dymshits and Martynov; AUCCTU Chairman Shalayev; Chairman of the USSR People's Control Committee Shkolnikov; First Secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee Mishin; heads of departments of the CPSU Central Committee; USSR ministers; and secretaries of party central committees of union republics and of regional and provincial party committees.

It was emphasized at the conference that the CPSU Central Committee attaches great importance to accelerating development of the country's fuel and power resources and more extensive satisfaction of the requirements of the national economy for fuel, electricity and thermal power.

Attention was drawn to shortcomings in the provision of energy for the national economy caused by lagging behind with the commissioning of new capacities at a number of power stations and enterprises of fuel departments, by the failure to carry out planned quotas concerning the saving of fuel and power resources and by failure on the part of many enterprises and organizations to observe discipline in the use of electricity.

It was stressed that it is important to use more extensively the available capacities of power stations, to introduce progressive norms of the expenditure of fuel and energy in the output of products and to employ power-saving equipment and technological processes.

It was emphasized at the conference that it is necessary to create among all industrial personnel an atmosphere of high standards in tackling the implementation of the tasks set for the extraction and production of fuels, electricity and thermal power as well as with regard to the saving of fuel and energy resources, which greatly affects the implementation of plans for 1983 and the 5-year plan.

RIGA MEETING VIEWS PRODUCTION METHODS, RESOURCES

LD220646 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Excerpts] A republican meeting of representatives of collectives of enterprises and organizations and of front-ranking workers and innovators of industry was held today in Riga. The socialist pledges of the working people of the Latvian SSR for 1983 were adopted.

Serious shortcomings in the introduction into production of progressive methods and the use of resources in the implementation of the measures mapped out in the republic to reduce loss of working time were discussed.

Comrade Voss, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Latvian Communist Party, took part in the meeting.

TRACTOR WORKS LEADERS RELEASED FROM JOBS

LD211406 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] In Moscow today, a meeting us under way of the Collegium of the Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building and the presidium of the industry's trade union central committee. There is discussion of the results of the work in the past year and also of the tasks for 1983 and the 11th 5-Year Plan in the light of the demands of the November CPSU Central Committee plenum, and the provisions and conclusions set out in Comrade Andropov's speech at the plenum.

The minister, Comrade Yezhevskiy, noted in his report that the plan for the marketing of output over the industry as a whole last year was fulfilled ahead of schedule. Especially good work has been done by the collectives of the production associations Tselinogradselmash, Rostselmash, Minsk, Tashkent, and Kharkov tractor works.

At the same time Chelyabinsk and Altay production associations, Kishinev tractor works and certain other enterprises did not cope with their tasks. In the industry as a whole, the plan for production of spare parts was not fulfilled. Chief attention in the report and in the speeches by the participants in the meeting was given to the use of reserves for raising the quality, reliability and durability of machines and spare parts.

The heads of those enterprises which systematically fail to fulfill the task for delivery of new machines, other material and technical means and spare parts were subjected to sharp criticism. It was reported that a number of heads of works have been released from their jobs.

Many enterprises of the tractor and agricultural machine building industry are being reconstructed; new shops and works are being built. In the current 5-year plan, almost double the amount of capital investment has been allocated for this purpose compared with the previous 5-year plan. This gives the possibility not only of increasing the output of machines for kolkhozes and sovkhozes but also of raising their technical standard.

The Collegium paid much attention to the construction of housing and other questions of improving the work and life of workers in the industry.

RATIONALE FOR ECONOMIC INTENSIFICATION DISCUSSED

OW230335 [Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian at 0845 GMT on 13 January carries the scheduled 30-minute "Lenin's University of the Millions" program on intensification of the Soviet economy moderated by Professor Pavel Grigoryevich Bunich, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

Bunich begins the program by explaining the meaning of intensification in terms of the Soviet economic development.

Later in the program Academician Abel Gezevich Aganbegyan, director of the institute of economics and organization of industrial production of the Siberian Department of the USSR Academy of Sciences in Novosibirsk, dwells at length on the rationale of intensification in the Soviet Union. He cites statistics illustrating how intensification programs ensured an increase in the national income in the 9th and 10th 5-year Plans. He also cites the decision of the 26th party congress to enhance the intensification in the 12th 5-year Plan.

To exemplify the advantages of intensification, Aganbegyan discusses the successes of the Saratov autotransport production association achieved through the implementation of advanced methods of management which include the use of computers, various incentives and strict working discipline.

The program concludes with an announcer providing the topic of the following program which will explain the reasons for increasing costs of raw materials.

SELSKAYA ZHIZN REPORTS EARLY JANUARY WEATHER

PM211619 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 14 Jan 83 p 1

[USSR Hydrometeorological Center "Weather and Crops" report prepared by Agrometeorologist A. Grishina]

[Text] At the beginning of the first 10-day period in January there was a fall in temperature over most of the territory of the European part of the USSR. Minimum air temperature in the northern region and in the northwest of the Central Region fell to minus 25-40 degrees and in the majority of the remaining Central Region oblasts, and over most of the territory of the Volga-Vyatka and Ural Regions to minus 20-25. However, winter grain crops during the cold snap were under a snow cover chiefly between 15 and 20 cm deep, although in places it was more than 20 cm. Therefore the minimum soil temperature at the winter grain crop tillering node depth was maintained within the range of minus 3 and minus 6 degrees -- locally minus 8 degrees.

In the majority of the Ukraine and Central Chernozem oblasts, in the south of the Volga Region and also in the Rostov Oblast and in the north of the Krasnodar and Stavropol Krays the minimum air temperature fell to minus 16-22 degrees and locally to minus 25-28 degrees. Winter grain crops during this period were under a thin snow cover and the minimum soil temperature at the winter grain crop tillering node depth was within the range of minus 8-10 degrees. In places it fell to minus 12 degrees but this did not endanger the winter grain crops.

During the second half of the 10-day period it grew warmer again. The maximum air temperature in the majority of regions rose to 1-5 degrees, in the southwest region, in the Baltic area, in the west and south of the Ukraine and in the south of Krasnodar Kray and in Dagestan it rose to 5-10 degrees, and in the Ural Region to zero.

In the Transcaucasian republics the weather was cold. The mean air temperature for the 10-day period in Armenia and the south of Georgia was 4-9 degrees below the normal perennial average and in the rest of the territory it was 1-3 degrees below normal.

In the farming regions of West Siberia and in Kazakhstan relatively warm weather persisted for most of the 10-day period. The winter grain crops were under a snow cover generally 15-30 cm deep (in the north of the Novosibirsk and Kemerovo Oblasts and in the Tomsk Oblast -- 35-45 cm). The minimum soil temperature at winter grain crop tillering node depth remained within the range of minus 1-4 degrees and in the west of the Altay Kray minus 7-9 degrees. The overwintering of winter crops proceeded successfully.

Relatively warm weather also persisted in East Siberia at the beginning of the 10-day period, but it then became considerably colder. In Krasnoyarsk Kray, in the central and southern rayons of the Irkutsk Oblast and Transbaikal area minus 30, and in some places, minus 40 degrees were recorded; in the more northern regions of the Irkutsk and Chita Oblasts and the Buryat ASSR minus 43 degrees were recorded. At the end of the 10-day period the frost was less severe almost everywhere.

In the Central Asian republics the average air temperature for the 10-day period was 1-3 degrees above average. The maximum air temperature in Turkenistan and in the west of the Uzbek SSR rose to 16 and in some places 20 degrees.

Precipitation occurred almost everywhere. The winter grain crops were in a state of winter dormancy.

COSMOS-1402 REENTRY OVER INDIAN OCEAN ANNOUNCED

LD232340 Moscow TASS in English 2338 GMT 23 Jan 83

["A TASS Announcement" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 24 TASS -- According to competent Soviet organisations, monitoring the flight of the Cosmos-1402 satellite, its fragment which is the main part of the satellite's structure entered the dense layers of the atmosphere over the central area of the Indian Ocean on 01.10 Moscow time on January 24, 1983 and ceases its existence.

The fragment of the satellite, the fuel core of the power plant's reactor, is forecasted to enter the dense layers of the atmosphere on February 3-8, 1983 and to burn up.

MARCHUK, ALEKSANDROV ADDRESS SCIENTIFIC MEETING

PM210837 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jan 83 Second Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Increasing the Effectiveness of Soviet Science"]

[Text] A session of the central council of philosophical (methodological) seminars under the USSR Academy of Sciences Presidium has been held to discuss socioeconomic problems of the development of Soviet science and scientific and technical progress. The session was opened by Academician Yu. A. Ovchinnikov, chairman of the Central Council and vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

Academician A.P. Aleksandrov, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, delivered an introductory address to those present. A report on "Socioeconomic Problems of the Development of Soviet Science in the Light of the Decisions of the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) Plenum and the Report by Comrade Yu. V. Andropov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the Ceremonial Session Devoted to the USSR's 60th Anniversary" was delivered by Academician G.I. Marchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology. Taking part in the discussion of the report were Academician Ye. P. Velikhov, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences; Academician B. Ye. Paton, president of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences; V.P. Yelyutin, USSR minister of higher and secondary specialized education; Academicians A.A. Bayev, Ye.M. Primakov and Ye. I. Chazov; and G.L. Smirnov, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

BRIEFS

CASPIAN POLLUTION CURBS -- Contaminated water from oil and natural gas mines is no longer polluting the Caspian Sea. According to information supplied to our correspondent by the environment preservation department of the Caspian Sea, contaminated water from all large establishments on the sea is channelled through pipes to special places. A total of four-fifths of the world's fish varieties is in the Caspian Sea. Furthermore, two-thirds of Azerbaijan's oil is extracted from this sea. The Soviet Union allocates tens of millions of rubles every year for protecting fish and plant life in the Caspian Sea against the effect of increased oil and natural gas extraction. [Text] [Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 12 Jan 83 GF]